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### Tories urged to settle simmering row

## Hague calls snap ballot on the euro

By Philip Webster, Roland Watson and James Landale

WILLIAM HAGUE called a snap ballot of Conservative Party members yesterday to endorse his policy of ruling out British membership of the single currency for this Parliament and the next.

He brought to a head the simmering internal dispute that has again threatened to wreak havoc at the annual conference next month, by ordering a vote that will leave his pro-European critics out on a limb. Mr Hague declared that he wanted to "set the party free" so that it could concentrate its fire on the Government, rather than fight within itself.

The estimated 350,000 members are to be asked to back his policy in a postal vote over the next three weeks, in a simple Yes or No question.

Ballot papers will go out on September 21 and will have to be returned by October 1. Mr Hague will announce what is certain to be a comfortable victory shortly before the conference begins on October 6.

The Tory leader made the decision to take on the pro-Europeans, in a style reminiscent of Tony Blair's move to confront the Left by abolishing Clause 4, when he learnt recently that senior figures such as Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine were planning speeches at the conference in support of the euro.

Over the last few days, he consulted leading members of the Shadow Cabinet, then yesterday he secured the backing of the party's management board for a ballot that will cost £250,000. He telephoned Mr

The decision to hold this ballot is misguided, short-sighted and likely to backfire

— Peter Riddell, page 11  
Leading article, page 23

Clarke and Mr Heseltine to tell them, and announced at a news conference his plan to secure at last a "settled policy" on the euro.

It was time, he said, to put behind them the divisions over the single currency that were one of the biggest contributors to last May's election disaster.

"I do not intend to do this by making a plea for unity. I believe that unity comes through leading, not pleading. I believe it comes through consistency, through clarity, through certainty.

"Wherever I go, I find party members who tell me how much they value the clarity and certainty of a settled policy on the euro. They are angry about the way that rows about this issue have again and again damaged our party."

Mr Hague's suggestion that the ballot should settle the argument was dismissed by Mr Clarke and other pro-Europeans.

The former Chancellor was scornful. "My view of the national interest will not be changed by the results of a snap vote of party activists. I

will have a free vote in Parliament whenever the issue arises. I would expect any leader of the Conservative Party to obtain a good majority in an appeal which will be treated as a request for personal backing for the leader from the membership."

Mr Clarke said he would not even be campaigning. "I prefer to campaign against the Labour Party rather than against members of my own party."

Sir Edward Heath said the ballot was "absolutely unjustified", adding: "The rest of the country and Europe will just regard it as a 'smart-alec' attempt by Mr Hague to get his own way without proper discussion within the party."

Ian Taylor, the pro-European Tory MP for Esher and Walton who resigned from the front bench last year in protest at Mr Hague's decision to rule out a single currency for two Parliaments, said the ballot would isolate the party from a key debate. "It solves the problems of conference at the expense of the longer-term credibility of the Tory party."

Labour accused Mr Hague of "panicking" ahead of the conference. "If he wishes to lock himself into a position based on dogma rather than the national interest, then the Tories will be the losers," a spokesman said.

Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said the move showed the Tories were "still at war" over Europe and Mr Hague was trying to "marginalise" his critics.



Boris Yeltsin, looking downcast, arrives for a meeting at the Kremlin yesterday

## Rouble slides to new low as Duma snubs Yeltsin again

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA lurched further into political and economic crisis yesterday when parliament overwhelmingly rejected President Yeltsin's candidate for Prime Minister and the chairman of the country's central bank resigned as the rouble continued its decline.

Deputies in the Duma, the lower house of parliament, were preparing to institute impeachment proceedings against Mr Yeltsin as a means of avoiding the elections demanded by the Constitution should the President's nominee as Prime Minister fail to win approval next week.

Yesterday Mr Yeltsin's tormentors in the Duma turned their backs on his offers of power sharing and again rejected Viktor Chernomyrdin, his candidate for Prime Minister, by a margin of 273 votes to 138.

In a second acrimonious debate Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, blamed Mr Chernomyrdin's five and half years in office for bringing Russia back to 1917 and the eve of revolution. Grigori Yavlinsky, of the liberal Yabloko faction, said that Mr Chernomyrdin's proposed rescue package was tantamount to pouring petrol on the fire.

Mr Chernomyrdin retorted that the Communists wanted to repeat the events in Indonesia, where economic problems led to widespread unrest and the removal of President Suharto. "The worse the better is their motto," he said after his defeat. "Somebody wants shops to be empty and people to take to the streets."

The political rebuff and the continued failure of Moscow's political elite to put aside their differences, form a Government and pull the country out of its downward spiral, added to the rouble's steady tumble.

The local currency was selling on the street at 21 to the US dollar, compared with six to the dollar last month. Traders predicted that it could fall to 30 or even 50, wiping out salaries and savings and pushing millions more Russians beneath the poverty line.

To add to the atmosphere of crisis, Sergei Dubinin, the central bank chairman, resigned and Mr Yeltsin postponed a planned meeting with the Chinese leadership.

Russia now faces yet another week of political haggling before the Duma will make its final vote on Mr Yeltsin's nomination. Although he has insisted that he will stand by Mr Chernomyrdin, he was under pressure last night to nominate someone less tainted by the scandal, corruption and incompetence of the Russian reform experiment of the past seven years.

Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, who has turned the capital into a showpiece of successful reform, is a possibility. Another candidate would be Yegor Stroyev, the colourless former Communist.

The latest name to appear is that of Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister and former intelligence chief, whose deft handling of foreign policy has won him admirers.

If the Duma again rejects Mr Yeltsin's choice — whoever it turns out to be — the Constitution requires the dissolution of parliament and elections. However, deputies were busy preparing a way round the Constitution by instituting impeachment proceedings against Mr Yeltsin for his part in the break-up of the Soviet Union and the war in Chechnya.

Yeltsin on the rack, page 14  
Leading article, page 23

## United board calls emergency meeting on BSkyB takeover bid

By Raymond Snoddy and Jason Nisse

DIRECTORS of Manchester United have been summoned to an urgent meeting to consider BSkyB's proposed takeover, amid opposition from fans, and the likelihood of an Office of Fair Trading investigation.

The announcement of the meeting, to be held before tomorrow night's home game against Charlton Athletic, came as the club's shares soared on the stock market, taking with them the entire quoted football sector. United shares were up 46½p to 205½p, and Aston Villa, Celtic, Newcastle United, and Tottenham Hotspur also benefited as the market looked for the next bid target.

There was little sign of progress on the proposed BSkyB deal, however, other than a formal statement to the Stock Exchange confirming that the two organisations



"Scored? No... they've just seen the share price"

were in discussions. Speculation that rival bidders had shown an interest in the club was dampened by the finance director, David Gill, who said that the club would have mentioned it had any other approaches been made.

BSkyB — whose biggest shareholder is News Interna-

tional, owner of *The Times* — had hoped that a formal offer valuing United at £575 million could be put before the boards of both companies in the next couple of days, but there may now be a pause in negotiations until after tomorrow's Old Trafford board meeting.

The club may want to review the proposed price — a number of directors believe it is too low — as well as the fans' reaction and the political impact of a sale. Peter Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, promised yesterday that any offer would be examined "very completely and extremely searchingly" by the Office of Fair Trading, which automatically investigates any takeover worth more than £70 million. The OFT confirmed that its officials had held preliminary discussions with BSkyB.

The OFT study will make one of three recommendations: that the deal should be allowed to proceed; that there

are competition implications that can be handled by firm undertakings, or that it should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

BSkyB's interest in the club is mainly to defend its position as pay-per-view televising of football games.

In January the Restrictive Practices Court will begin a case which will decide whether the collective agreement on television sports rights between BSkyB, the BBC and the Premiership is lawful. If the court ruled that television rights should be negotiated by the individual clubs rather than the league, the existing Premiership-BSkyB agreement could be struck down. The ownership of Manchester United is seen as an important insurance policy against such an eventuality.

Resentful fans, page 2  
Simon Barnes, page 22  
Values boosted, page 28  
Clubs' reaction, page 48

## Shares soar, pound dips on interest rate hopes

By Janet Bush, Economics Editor

WORLD stock markets soared yesterday in the hope that America is preparing to cut interest rates in response to the deepening global economic crisis.

In London, the FTSE 100 index scored its second highest points gain yet, closing 130 points higher at 5,347 — a jump of 3.5 per cent.

Investors were buoyed by hopes that the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee may also be persuaded to cut interest rates when it meets tomorrow and Thursday. Although virtually everyone in the City is expecting base rates to remain unchanged, many argue that the cost of borrowing has peaked and may be about to fall.

However, economists believe that the committee is fearful of a precipitous decline in the pound and will be wary about acting hastily. Sterling appears to have started a steady decline that will finally bring relief to exporters, falling almost 2.5 pfm to 2,879 marks yesterday, having traded close to a 12-month low earlier in the day.

Shares in the Far East also saw dramatic gains with a rise of more than 5 per cent in Tokyo; 8 per cent in Hong Kong; and 20 per cent in Malaysia, which recently re-imposed exchange controls.

Wall Street was closed yesterday for the Labor Day holiday but is likely to follow other stock markets higher.

Shares boom, page 27  
Commentary, page 29

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### RICHARD BRANSON

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# Angry United fans say deal would rip heart from their club

John Goodbody reports from Old Trafford on a mood of resentment at BSkyB's proposed takeover

OLD TRAFFORD was ringed with resentful fans yesterday, protesting at the proposed takeover by BSkyB of Manchester United, Europe's most prosperous football club. As supporters' organisations voiced their hostility to the deal, hundreds of United followers travelled to the ground. One brought a For Sale sign, and placed it against a stadium wall. Another painted a hoarding to change an advertisement for a tour of Old Trafford. It used to read "A day in the heart of United". Now it says: "A day in the heartless of United PLC."

Many lamented what they saw as the loss of the club's soul as they stood under the clock commemorating the Munich air disaster of 1958, when so many of the "Busby Babes" died. Geoffrey Joyner, who had travelled from Bristol, said that the deal "would give Mr Murdoch a monopoly of sport in this country. He already has rights to golf, cricket and rugby league, which I can't watch because I can't afford Sky TV. His wife added: "These days it is all about money. The club doesn't seem to think about the loyal fans."

John Hallsworth, who was visiting from Melbourne, said: "It is dreadful. Over in Australia, Murdoch and Packer between them own virtually all the main media. They have no fundamental love of any particular game." The fiercest opposition to the deal came from Andy Walsh, who chairs the Manchester United Independent Supporters Association, which fears that the club might be moved to another part of the country or even outside Britain to improve its earning power. In

the United States, the franchises of sports clubs have sometimes moved their home cities to the dismay of local spectators. The association will discuss what action to take when its committee meets on Thursday but Mr Walsh said he could see "no long-term advantages for Manchester United to be part of News International". The main shareholders of BSkyB are News International, ultimate owner of *The Times*. Mark Loogdon, oot of the association's committee members,

said: "No doubt some people will see this as a terrific business move. But there is a difference between the shareholder who wants to go into the ground and watch the game and the one who wants to make money out of it." Andy Mitten, editor of the independent monthly fanzine *United We Stand*, said: "Supporters are concerned about the future. The demand for tickets already far exceeds the supply and people are worried that the price of seats will go up." Asked if supporters would

not benefit because United would be able to buy more expensive players, he replied: "We already have the financial muscle to buy anyone." Monica Harland, of the National Federation of Supporters' Clubs, said: "Ever since the Premiership started in 1992, we have felt that football has lost its soul. The leading clubs have the cream and the rest have been left with the milk and often sour milk. This news does augur well for football." Sheila Spiers, of the National

Football Supporters' Association, said: "We are concerned that the television contract may own Manchester United. Surely Sky will give preferential treatment to screaming United?" "With the money United would have to pay players, no one else in Britain would be able to compete in the transfer market and even some big European clubs would be struggling. What would be the point of going to matches?" Simon Barnes, page 22 Business, pages 27, 28 Sport, page 48

# Trimble talks to Adams, but says no to handshake

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DAVID TRIMBLE, Northern Ireland's First Minister, broke one of Unionism's biggest taboos by speaking directly to Gerry Adams yesterday, but he refused the Sinn Fein president's preferred handshake. Mr Trimble, Northern Ireland's top Unionist, addressed the leader of Irish republicanism for the first time during a 90-minute meeting of party leaders at Stormont to discuss the Province's new political structures. At the end Mr Adams approached him, saying he understood his political problems, and offered his hand. Mr Trimble refused, saying that the gesture was not appropriate. Unionist officials called Mr Adams's approach a stunt. They argued that a handshake was a sign of trust and that Mr Trimble could not trust Mr Adams or form an executive that included Sinn Fein this autumn unless IRA disarmament had begun. Mr Adams insisted that the Good Friday accord gave Sinn Fein the right to join the executive without any pre-conditions. The Rev Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, erected another obsta-

cle to the executive's successful operation. He said that the DUP, which opposes the accord, would accept the two ministerial posts to which it is entitled, but would refuse to sit in the executive with Sinn Fein without the IRA's disarmament. "We are not negotiating the future of our Province with [Sinn Fein], nor are we taking part in any acts of government with them," Dr Paisley declared. On Thursday Mr Trimble will take another major step towards more normal relations with Sinn Fein when he holds his first bilateral meeting with Mr Adams—one of a series with each party to discuss the new political structures. Seamus Mallon, the nationalist Deputy First Minister, will also attend. Mr Trimble sat in the same room as Mr Adams during the months of talks that produced the Good Friday accord, but had not addressed a word to him before yesterday. The breakthrough followed Sinn Fein's appointment of Martin McGuinness to liaise with the international disarmament body last week, and Mr Adams's statement renouncing violence, but cameras were barred from witnessing this latest mile-

stone in the peace process and both men sought to play down its significance. Mr Trimble described the meeting as workmanlike. He addressed Mr Adams by name, as he did the other leaders. He said the only point of contention came when Sinn Fein raised the formation of the executive, and Unionists replied that, for that to happen, there had to be progress on all issues including decommissioning. Mr Adams said that the atmosphere was good, there was no acrimony, and he was treated the same as everyone else in the room. However, the DUP and Robert McCartney's UK Unionist Party both boycotted the meeting, calling it a surreptitious device to bring Sinn Fein into government without any IRA disarmament. One of Mr Trimble's own Ulster Unionist Party colleagues in the new assembly also condemned his leader's decision to talk to Mr Adams without prior decommissioning. Peter Weir called the move a "gross misjudgement". Were Mr Weir to side with the Paisleyites in the new assembly it would eliminate Mr Trimble's tiny pro-accord majority among the Unionist members.



John Monks, front right, leading the TUC delegation out of 10 Downing Street after yesterday's meeting

# Blair rejects union plea on economy

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister refused last night to bow to trade union demands for a change in economic policy despite threats of industrial unrest over public sector pay. Tony Blair told trades union leaders at a meeting at Downing Street that the Government would not be "blown off course" after a TUC delegation urged him to lower interest rates and take action to help save 250,000 jobs. After a "forthright" exchange of views Mr Blair also dismissed appeals for a task force to protect jobs or a change of remit for the

Bank of England's monetary policy committee which will consider whether to cut interest rates later this week. A delegation, led by John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, pressed Mr Blair to change tack in the wake of further job losses, particularly in the manufacturing industry. Rodney Bickerstaffe, General Secretary of Unison, the public services union, also warned the Prime Minister of possible industrial unrest if the government continued to depress public sector wages to keep down inflation. "This is not

just about manufacturing and not just the high pound. It is also about downward pressure on the public sector as an economic lever. That, at some point, will have to be resolved one way or the other. This is not a threat, but I have a gut feeling that the expectations of a New Labour government were that public sector pay was to be addressed but in fact it has got worse." Union leaders are becoming increasingly alarmed at the recent spate of job losses and factory closures.

# Field to carry on his welfare feud

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRANK FIELD will use the Liberal Democrat conference later this month to reopen his feud with the Government over welfare reform. The former minister for welfare reform, who resigned dramatically after the reshuffle at the end of July, is determined to campaign from the backbenches — and any other forum — for a compulsory second pension, less means testing and more insurance-based welfare. Mr Field has already made clear that many of his proposals in government were blocked by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who argued that the start-up costs were too high. But he is expected to further embarrass ministers by giving details of the battles with his boss, Harriet Harman, and the Treasury at a fringe meeting at the Liberal Democrat conference in Brighton, in two weeks. He is said to be furious that

many of his plans were shelved or never taken seriously when he was a minister although he is widely regarded as an expert in social security reform. He is also expected to criticise several reforms implemented by Gordon Brown, including the working family tax credit, designed to encourage low-paid families into work. Mr Field believes the tax credit, adopted from a system in the United States, will lead to further means testing and would be open to widespread fraud by both employers and employees. Mr Field will use the meeting to argue the case for pump priming to set up a compulsory second pension, a policy which the Liberal Democrats also back. Liberal Democrat sources insist that Mr Field is sympathetic to their own plan for compulsory pensions outlined in the policy agenda published last month.

# Blair woos nurses with consultant grade pledge

By ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a new grade of consultant nurse aimed at raising the status of the profession and persuading disgruntled nurses to remain in the NHS will be unveiled today by Tony Blair. The Prime Minister will tell a nurses' conference that Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, is drawing up proposals to create a post of consultant nurse which would give them many of the powers currently held by junior doctors. They would be able to prescribe medicines and run clinics with their own teams of support staff in areas such as cardiac rehabilitation and breast cancer care. Mr Blair will hold out the prospect of higher salaries for those who train and qualify for the new role to match their increased standing. He will add that he hopes the move will remove once and for all

the image of nurses as the "doctor's handmaidens". The move is aimed at offering nurses an alternative career path at a time when thousands are leaving the health service each year complaining of poor morale brought about by low wages and a lack of career opportunities. Mr Blair will say the role is tailored to appeal to those who want to progress within the profession without moving into management and retaining day-to-day links with patients. After Gordon Brown's spending review in July, Mr Dobson announced that he intended to create 15,000 extra nursing places and 6,000 new training places over the next three years. But nurses' leaders questioned where the applicants would come from unless a nursing career was made more attractive. Mr

Blair, speaking at the Royal College of Nursing "Nurse of the Year" award in London, will say the new posts are designed to allow nurses to stay true to their reasons for joining the NHS. He will say: "Some nurses at a certain point in their careers are happy to move into management, but many others want to progress but still retain direct day-to-day contact with patients — the reason they came into nursing in the first place. "The creation of nurse consultants' posts, rooted in clinical practice and in touch with patients and staff, would be one way of recognising and meeting this aspiration." Mr Blair will add: "The consultant nurses would provide a focus for developing and supporting specialist roles in the profession and provide the nurses with an alternative career path."

# Labour sleaze inquiry opens

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

LABOUR'S ability to stamp out allegations of sleaze within its ranks faces a crucial test today when a two-day inquiry starts into allegations of misconduct concerning Tommy Graham, the suspended MP for Renfrewshire West. Mr Graham, who was suspended by the party last August after the suicide of Gordon McMaster the MP for Paisley South, is understood to be facing five charges, which he denies. If found guilty he could face anything ranging from a reprimand to expulsion from the party. The central plank of Labour's case against Mr Graham is believed to relate to allegations that he offered two party activists compromising photographs of another senior party official who is gay. Although the exact charges have not yet been made public, it is thought that the party's National Executive Committee, which is presenting the

case against him, will also attempt to prove that Mr Graham plotted against colleagues and in doing so brought the party into disrepute. Three members of Labour's highest disciplinary panel, the National Constitutional Committee, will today listen to the party's evidence at the hearing at Keir Hardie House in Glasgow, before deciding whether or not there is a case to answer. If the inquiry decides to proceed to a full hearing, then Mr Graham will be given the opportunity to put forward his defence. Throughout the two-day inquiry evidence will be taken from up to 10 witnesses. A verdict is expected tomorrow. Yesterday Jim Devine, a senior party figure and a close aide to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, was said to be willing to give evidence on Mr Graham's behalf.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Viagra on NHS warning

The Government was criticised yesterday for failing to issue clear guidelines for prescribing the anti-impotency drug Viagra, which is expected to be licensed for use in Britain next week. The NHS Confederation, which represents the health authorities that will have to pay for the drug, said that without Government intervention there would be different decisions in different parts of the country. Letters, page 23

### Drug case peer

The Tory peer stripped of the party whip after allegations that he offered to sell cocaine inside the House of Lords complained that he was the victim of "serious distortions". The Earl of Hardwicke, who is 27, said he would never do anything to harm Parliament's reputation and would be seeking corrections to newspaper reports.

### Horse master

Lord Vestey, 57, was appointed Master of the Horse, one of the oldest positions in the Royal Household. He is only the fourth person to hold the office since the Queen came to the throne. Although technically in charge of all the Queen's horses, "whether for war, for travel, for hunting or for racing", his job is almost entirely ceremonial.

### Race bias payout

A magistrate falsely accused of being part of a fraud conspiracy is set to receive a record £750,000 payout for race discrimination. A tribunal found Sam Yeboah, 52, chief personnel officer at Hackney Council, was forced to leave because Bernard Crofton, housing director, believed that Africans had a tendency to be dishonest.

### Atlantic bid fails

An American woman's attempt to row solo across the Atlantic ended when her 23ft boat capsized about 1,000 miles west of Land's End and she suffered a minor head injury. Victoria Marden, a lawyer from Louisville, Kentucky, set off her emergency beacon and was picked up by the merchant vessel *Independent Spirit*.

### Stage fright

A snake due to play a central role in *Anthony and Cleopatra* at the National Theatre, starring Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman, has escaped backstage. The 1ft asp, named Cedric by staff and a non-venomous type, had been in a secure box. A spokesman said: "Cedric was playing only a slither-on part but it's fairly crucial to the plot."

Advertisement for Garnier hair products, featuring a woman's face and the text "Garnier provides a sky the...".

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# Warning: water slides are more risky than rugby

RIDING a water slide is one of the most dangerous leisure activities in Britain, with the risk of an accident much higher than for contact sports such as football and rugby, according to research published today.

Swimmers may be in danger of colliding with another person as often as once every 100 flume descents because of inadequate safety measures that lead to "questionably high" risks, the study by David Ball, of Middlesex University, found.

Flumes that use a time-delayed "traffic light" system to tell swimmers when the slide is clear are particularly hazardous as they do not always ensure an adequate gap between users, Professor Ball said. Writing in the medical journal *Injury Prevention*, he said many such slides were so dangerous as to be "inherently unsafe", and they would almost certainly leave operators legally liable for injuries.

Under the traffic light system, used by more than 300 flume sets across the country, swimmers activate a red light as they enter the slide, then pass another sensor lower down that turns the light green after a three-second delay. Manufacturers say it should be impossible for a collision to occur if swimmers do not ignore the lights, but Professor Ball began his study after hearing of a teenage boy who broke an arm when he was hit by an adult descending a slide behind him at a faster pace, even though he had waited for the green light before starting.

There had been ten other collisions or near-misses during the previous three months on the slide, though Professor Ball suggested that acci-

**Mark Henderson reports on a study that says many chutes are unsafe and would leave operators liable**

dents had almost certainly been under-reported. He assessed 250 rides on the same flume during busy periods, and discovered that anyone taking longer than 15 to 20 seconds to complete their descent was at serious risk of being hit from behind if the next swimmer was going fast, in spite of the safety mechanism.

About 1 per cent of all rides fell into that category, he found, making the risk of an accident unacceptably high. "Even for contact sports like soccer and rugby, acknowledged as risky, (non-fatal) accident rates are a fraction of this value."

The slide would have been still more dangerous had not supervisory staff and swimmers taken their own precautions to maintain proper gaps between riders. Elderly, infirm and less confident swimmers were the most likely to be endangered.

"The three slowest transit times in this sample were recorded by a teenage girl, a mid-aged woman and a mid-aged man, none of whom was in any way misusing the system,"

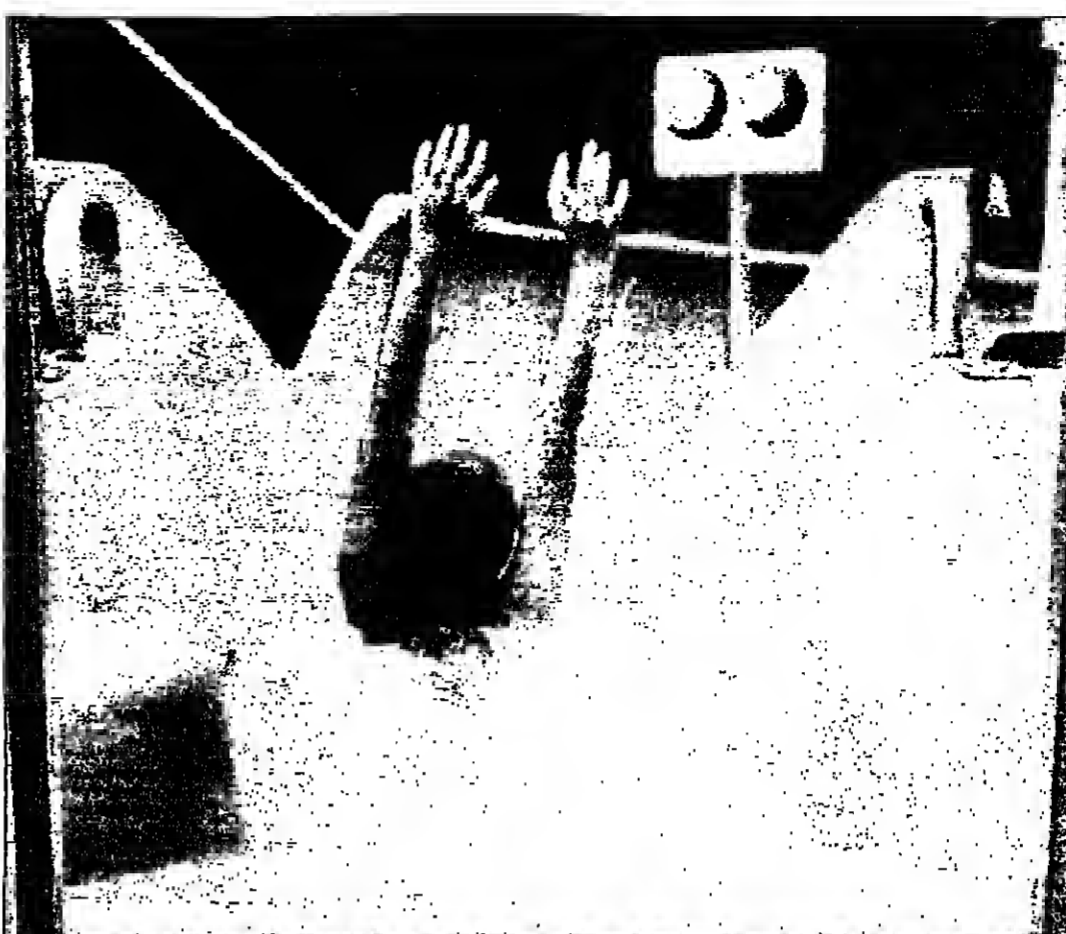
Professor Ball found. Risks were highest when queues built up at the top of a slide, creating pressure to go as soon as the light turned green. He concluded: "The risk to waterslide users, even the majority observing all the safety rules, was questionably high. In the event of a injury claim, swimming pool operators might be vulnerable to a court ruling that they have failed in their duty of care."

"It is suggested that waterslide operators, who are wholly or partially reliant on traffic light controlled systems, should carefully scrutinise the safety of their systems."

The study follows a report last month by the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?* criticising poor safety standards at swimming baths. Exposed water-slide supports were singled out as a particular danger, and lifeguard provision was found wanting at most pools.

Guidelines on water slide safety issued by the Health and Safety Commission and the Sports Council recommend that a "traffic light" system of the kind criticised by Professor Ball's study ought never to be used on its own to prevent accidents. The advice to slide operators, issued in 1988 and due to be updated later this year, includes measures that should be employed to ensure user safety but emphasises the importance of supervision at both ends of the slide.

Three sets of water flumes operated by the holiday village company Centerparcs use a "traffic light" which changes to green only when a swimmer is clear of the flume. All the company's flumes are supervised at the top and bottom.



**FLUME TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM**  
WHEN TOP OF FLUME IS UNATTENDED - GO ONLY ON THE GREEN LIGHT

The green light goes and a rider starts his slide. But Professor Ball says such systems can be risky

## Doctor is arrested after body of patient exhumed

By Stewart Tendler  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A DOCTOR at the centre of an investigation into the death of an elderly patient was arrested yesterday.

Harold Shipman lives in Mottram, near Manchester, and has a surgery in nearby Hyde. He was questioned by detectives who exhumed the body of Kathleen Grundy, 81, a former patient, on August 1.

Mrs Grundy died in June and her family became concerned when they found that she had changed her will in favour of Dr Shipman.

Last night he was still being questioned at Ashton-under-Lyne police station. Dr Shipman, 52, was arrested yesterday morning after he arrived voluntarily at the station with his solicitor.

Mrs Grundy, from Gee Cross, near Hyde, and the widow of a former mayor of the town, was found dead in her cottage on June 24 by friends who became concerned when she did not turn up for voluntary work at a pensioners' luncheon club. Dr Shipman had recorded the cause of death as "old age".

Mrs Grundy's estate included a 17th-century cottage worth an estimated £200,000, a holiday flat in the Lake District and a terraced house. Her daughter, Angela Woodruff, a solicitor, went to police with her concerns.

Police and John Pollard, the Coroner for Tameside, have been waiting for the results of tests which followed the exhumation.

Dr Shipman has been in practice at his town centre surgery in Hyde for more than 20 years.

Mrs Grundy was born and bred in Gee Cross, where she worked at an Age Concern shop until her death. She was said to be devoted to her family.

Her husband John, a former lecturer at Manchester University, died 30 years ago. Mrs Grundy was a Conservative councillor and a former chairman of Tameside and Glossop Community Health Council.



Shipman was held after attending police station

## Head wounds and broken limbs are likeliest injuries

By Joanna Hale

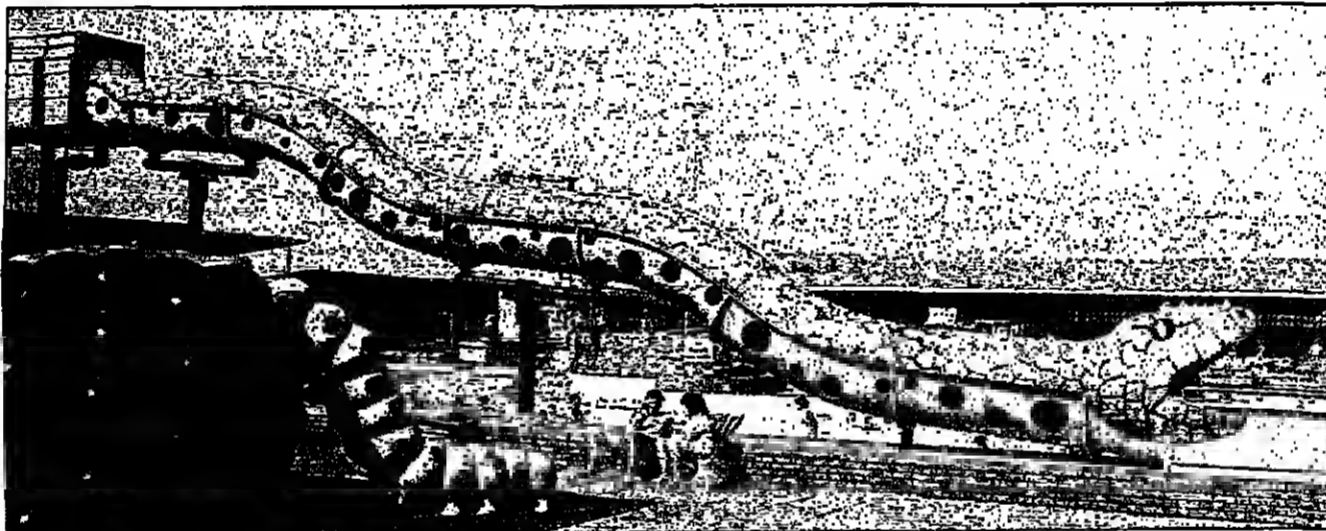
HEAD wounds and broken limbs are the most common injuries reported on water slides. Ian Jenkins, director of the Safety in Leisure Research Unit at the Swansea Institute, which devised British guidelines for water slides following a report on accidents in 1990, said: "Many of these accidents are kept quiet and result in out-of-court settlements."

"There have been numerous paraplegic injuries - we estimate up to 30 in the past decade. There are also cases of people banging their heads and drowning. I also know of one 16-year-old girl who became infertile after she was kicked in the abdomen by someone who smashed into her on a slide."

Problems with supervision rather than structure were the greatest hazard, he said. "These accidents tend to happen when the supervision has failed in some way."

Ralph Riley, chief executive of the Institute of Sport and Recreation Management, which is responsible for enforcing the code of practice for water slides, criticised the latest report. He said: "This seems to be very weak in terms of its conclusions. They have studied just one water slide."

"There are hundreds in the UK, used by



The water slide at the Tropicana holiday beach in Weston-super-Mare, where a girl of 13 broke her neck

millions of people. They are all inspected before use and instructions are issued for supervision and safety. Most of the injuries occur because they are misused in some way - it is difficult to legislate for that. No central figures are compiled for these

accidents, but each pool keeps a register so that it can tell if action needs to be taken."

Alan Morley, sales manager of Stuart Leisure, one of the biggest manufacturers of water slides, said: "Accidents usually happen due to problems of staffing. Many

leisure centres do not have big enough budgets to meet manufacturers' recommendations. Only a small percentage of accidents are down to design faults. As soon as these are discovered, they are rectified." The longest water slide in Britain

is believed to be at the Richard Dunn leisure centre in Bradford; it is 106 metres long and there have been no accidents since it was installed earlier this year. Mr Morley said.

Problems at other British water slides have included:-

In 1987, Ian Watkins, 15, of Burnham, Buckinghamshire, died after being dragged unconscious from Wild Waters Chute Pool, Old Deer Park, Richmond, after leading a chain of youngsters down the 300ft slide. Hammersmith Coroner's Court was told that the teenager, who was in a party of four friends, had jumped down the slide first, followed closely by the others. The slides were removed after the accident.

In 1991, Donna Henry, 13, of Bristol, broke her neck on the Snake Slide at Tropicana holiday beach, Weston-super-Mare, when she banged her head on the slide as she went over a bump.

Last month at Sandcastle leisure pool in Blackpool, Consumer Association inspectors found that support structures for two slides overhung the pool, creating the potential for head injuries. Two children banged their heads during the inspection. A spokesman said that extra warning signs had been put up and work was under way to drop the level of the pool.

## Coroner appeals to conscience of lake murderer

By Russell Jenkins

A CORONER yesterday told the unknown killer of Carol Park, the "Lady in the Lake" who was beaten to death and weighted down in Coniston Water more than two decades ago: "I hope your conscience is troubling you."

Ian Smith delivered his message at the end of an inquest on Mrs Park, who was 31 when she vanished from her bungalow home in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, in July 1976. Her body was discovered by divers last year.

Members of her family, including her husband, Gordon, 54, heard the coroner describe how she tried to ward off repeated blows from an axe or chopper that destroyed her face. He said it was a "nasty, vicious and brutal" attack as he brought in a verdict of unlawful killing.

Earlier Mr Park, a retired teacher, giving evidence to the hearing at Barrow Town Hall, acknowledged that his marriage had been troubled, but he said he loved his wife and had waited in vain for her return.

Sitting alongside his solicitor, he described how he and their three children, Vanessa, now 29, Jeremy, 27, and Rachel, 26, had returned home to Leese, outside Barrow, from a day trip to Blackpool to find she had vanished. Her wedding and engagement rings were lying on the dressing room table.



Gordon Park: children gave message of support

France with his third wife, Jennifer, 52. He was later charged with his wife's murder, but this was dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service because of insufficient evidence.

As Mr Park completed his evidence, the solicitor acting for the three children told the inquest that each of them wished to make it known publicly that they offered "total and unqualified" support to their father.

Cumbria Police began their investigation into Mrs Park's death in August last year after her body was found bound and weighted on the silty bottom of Coniston Water about 200 yards from Bailiff Wood and under 75ft of water.

Edmund Tapp, the Home Office pathologist who carried out the post-mortem examination, told the inquest that Mrs Park had been weighted down with lead piping attached to a homemade "body bag". He concluded that she was killed by repeated blows to her face from a weapon like an axe.

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# Cave rescuers praise boy who saved his father's life

### Eleven-year-old struggled for four hours to keep father conscious and warm, reports Simon de Bruxelles

A BOY who saved his father's life when they were trapped in a flooded cave was hailed as a hero by his rescuers last night.

James Leeds, 11, worked for four hours to keep his injured father warm and conscious as they waited for help in the cave beneath cliffs near Tintagel in Cornwall.

His father, Nick, was suffering a dislocated shoulder and hypothermia and kept lapsing into unconsciousness. On a ledge in another part of the cave, unable to see or reach them, were two rescuers who had become trapped themselves when their lifeboat capsized at the cave's entrance.

Deafened by changes in air pressure as waves pounded the cave and choked by fumes from the capsized boat's fuel tank, James followed the men's shouted instructions to keep his father awake and try to warm him.

One of the stranded rescuers, Mike Edkins, said: "James is the hero. He saved his father's life. Nick should be proud. James kept a cool head in what can only be described as a nightmare."

The father and son had taken refuge at the back of the 100ft-long cave after being swept out to sea at Bossiney Haven, near their family's Willapark Country Hotel. Mr Leeds, 52, passed out from cold and pain as they sat in their bathing trunks, not knowing whether the water would stop rising before it reached them.

Mr Edkins, 37, said he and his colleague, Kevin Dingle, 22, thought they were going to die when their inflatable turned over in 20ft waves. "We thought we had all had it. Kevin and I managed to scramble into a tiny hole and sat there hugging each other. We were screaming at each other to keep going," he said.

"Suddenly I heard the boy screaming, 'I think my father's dead.' We told James to rub him so they would both stay warm. It was freezing in there. We had dry suits on, so it wasn't so bad, but they were in bathers."

When the tide began to recede, other rescuers lowered themselves down the cliff and entered the cave. As they

waited to be winched up by helicopter, James thanked the two lifeboatmen for trying to save his life.

The rescue operation began about 5pm on Sunday when Mr Leeds leapt into the sea after his son was washed off rocks. They managed to reach the cave despite a huge swell but the tide was rising and there was no way out.

Mr Edkins and two other crewmen launched the inshore lifeboat at Port Isaac. In heavy seas, the journey took more than twice the usual 20 minutes.

Mr Edkins said: "When we arrived at the cave we couldn't see anyone. We decided to anchor the boat and reverse it into the cave. We knew it would be dangerous, but all three of us agreed we had to do it."

They were within moments of success when the craft flipped over and Mr Edkins and Mr Dingle were thrown into the water. As the third crewman, Paul Pollington, was winched to safety from the open sea, Mr Edkins saw a wave pick up the 16ft boat and toss it towards him. "I thought it was going to take my head off," he said.

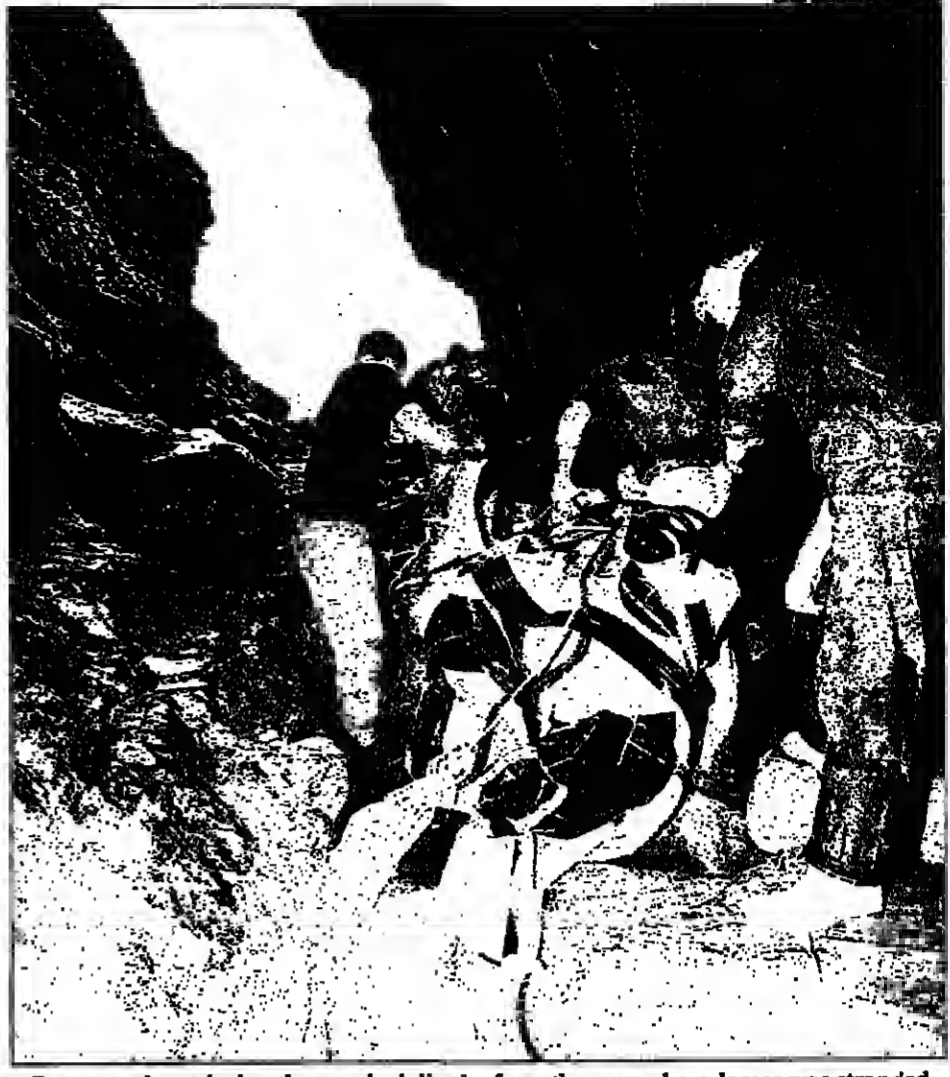
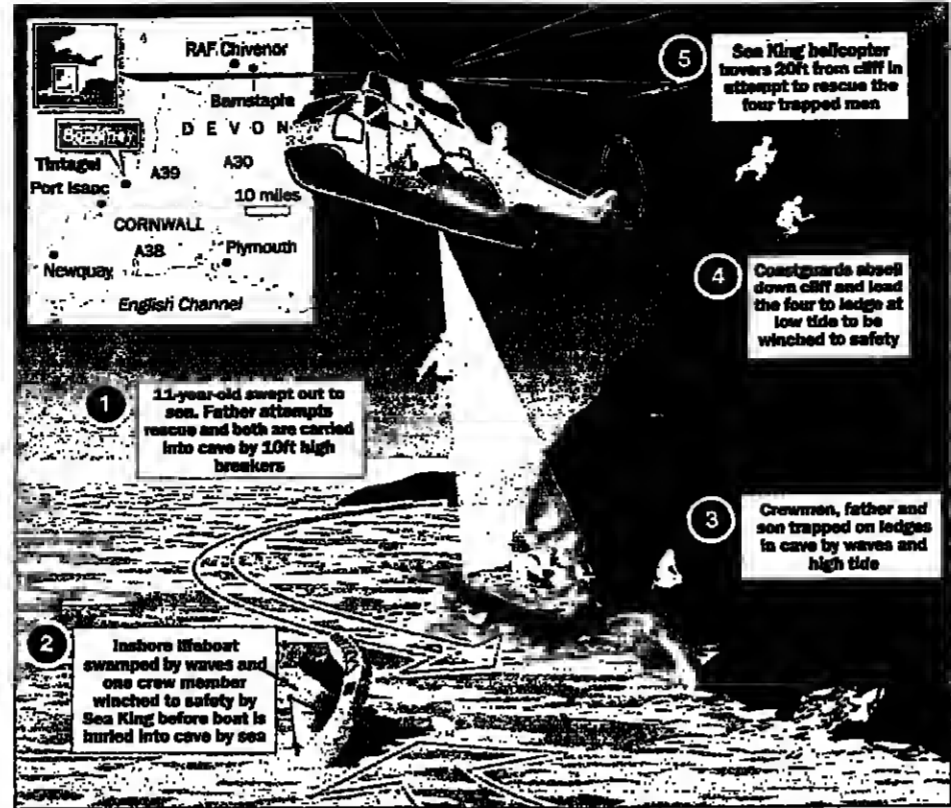
Instead, the boat formed a barrier against the incoming waves and Mr Edkins was able to scramble up to the shelf where Mr Dingle had landed.

All four were taken to the North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple after their ordeal. The two lifeboatmen were discharged but Mr Leeds and James were kept in to be treated for hypothermia and trauma.

Yesterday two of the helicopter pilots involved in the rescue, Al Potter and Ian Armstrong, visited the hospital. They presented James with a 22 Squadron baseball cap and his father with a coffee mug.

Flight Lieutenant Potter, 33, said: "They are in pretty good spirits, given what happened to them. Jamie was in and out of sleep and was pretty tired."

Mr Leeds's wife, Liz, said: "We are just so grateful to the two lifeboatmen who risked their lives for Nick and James and the RAF helicopter crew who picked them up."



Coastguards retrieving the wrecked dinghy from the cave where James was stranded

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### EU may try to ban toy ads for under-12s

Britain will come under pressure to ban television advertisements aimed at children under 12 when Sweden assumes the presidency of the European Union in 2001, advertisers said yesterday.

Sweden has a law preventing its commercial broadcasters from carrying any advertising of toys such as Barbie Dolls or Lego. The government says that this is to avoid parents being browbeaten by "peer power" into buying expensive products and children feeling isolated if they do not own the same toys as their peer groups.

#### Ex-bishop Casey retires

Father Eamonn Casey, who resigned as Roman Catholic Bishop of Galway six years ago after admitting fathering a son in the 1970s, is retiring from work within the Church, he announced through the Catholic information office in Dublin. There was speculation last month that the 71-year-old priest, who recently completed missionary work in Ecuador, would take up a new job in Britain or Ireland.

#### Sex-case teacher jailed

A maths teacher who sexually assaulted teenagers after inviting them back to his home was jailed for three years at Leeds Crown Court. David Tebbs, 42, from Moorstown, Leeds, admitted a series of offences of indecent assault on two boys, and taking indecent photographs of one of them and a girl after a game of strip poker. He resigned from his post at a school in the Wakefield area last year.

#### Life for newlywed killer

A builder was jailed for life at Cardiff Crown Court for killing his wife of 11 days with a hammer. Keri Romans, 29, of Barry, South Wales, who denied murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility, said he "snapped" during their first argument as man and wife after Emma Jo, 23, tried to stop him going out to see a friend.

#### School bus driver jailed

John Molseed, 33, faked a new identity to evade an eight-year ban for drink-driving, then ferried 38 children to the seaside on a school trip while twice over the legal limit. Molseed, of Milngavie, near Glasgow, was jailed for 2½ years and banned from driving for life at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court after admitting driving dangerously and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

#### Virgin Records

We have been asked by Virgin Records to make it clear that, contrary to an article (August 26) on the Spice Girls' pregnancies, "Don't wait, have a baby now", the company was not "furious" at two of the girls becoming pregnant. Virgin has an enlightened policy on pregnancy and is delighted for the girls. We are happy to put the record straight.

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### Travellers' life repels 'upper crusty' guinea pig

By Simon de Bruxelles

SHE is a Tory councillor who named her Labrador after Baroness Thatcher and lives in a manor house mentioned in the Domesday Book. They are New Age Travellers with nose rings and tattoos whose home is a rubbish-strewn caravan site near Brighton.

They were never going to see eye to pierced eye-brow, but at least Dee Dee Dobell was prepared to give it a try. Mrs Dobell spent a week living as an "upper crusty" at the invitation of the BBC for a new series called *Living with the Enemy*.

Although Mrs Dobell claims she went with an open mind there is no prospect of her exchanging life at Whitestaunton Manor in Somerset for the scruffy former Army lorry that became her home for a week. Besides the neighbours, who did not exactly welcome her with open arms, the facilities were somewhat basic.

Mrs Dobell, a 56-year-old music teacher, said: "Fairly early on I asked about toilet facilities and someone tossed a shovel over and told me to head for the nearest wood. I couldn't bring myself to do that, although I had to resort to using a bucket once. So I turned and walked a mile and a half to the nearest service



Dee Dee Dobell with New Age travellers Dan and Zana, left, and outside her home, Whitestaunton Manor

station." The Barbour-clad grandmother survived on tea and toast and was reduced to tears on several occasions by her companions. Back at the family's 50-acre estate near Chard, Mrs Dobell said she had taken up the challenge because she "believed it was important to understand the travellers' experience".

She said: "Despite what people may say, I went into this with an open mind and I was prepared to change my opinions. But I saw nothing which gave me any reason to change my mind. It was all so tedious and inane and it grieves me greatly that their

children are being denied all sorts of opportunities. What struck me most was the sheer inanity of the lifestyle. There's just no point to it."

Mrs Dobell spent her week with travellers Dan and Zana in a commune near Brighton. "One afternoon I tagged along with them when they went to a tattoo parlour. It was full of people with pierced bits, which I found quite perverse. The people I was with were quite nice but there were other characters in the camp whom I found intimidating."

"I'm glad I did it, but similarly I am glad it is over."



# Possible BSE link to sheep prompts inquiry

New controls may follow UK scientist's warnings on BSE, Michael Hornsby says

EUROPEAN Union scientists are to re-examine the safety of lamb after a British expert advising the Government said it was "a distinct possibility" that "mad cow" disease had got into sheep.

Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, is also to resubmit proposals to ban high-risk parts of sheep from the food chain. Britain already has such measures in place but most other EU countries have considered them unnecessary.

The flare-up of concern over BSE in sheep came at the worst possible time for the food industry in Britain, where the Meat and Livestock Commission yesterday launched a £2 million campaign to promote lamb consumption.

Colio Maclean, director-general of the commission, said there was nothing new in the latest reports and insisted that the public was fully protected against potential risks by existing safeguards.

Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union said: "It is essential to remember that not a single case of BSE has ever been found in a commercial flock. Meat and bone meal, the suggested source of BSE, has not been fed to sheep since 1988. The amount fed to sheep was always far less than cattle and any sheep that did eat it would have been slaughtered long ago."

Roger Reeson, managing director of Dewhurst, which has about 200 High Street butchers' shops, said: "Lamb sales significantly increase at this time of year which is the peak of the season, so with the best quality lamb in the shops now the last thing we expect is a downturn in sales."

The Consumers' Association said the Government had failed to put the risk to consumers in context.

"When we became aware that BSE might have got into sheep, we wrote to the Department of Health asking for advice, for example on whether babies should be fed lamb, but we did not get any coherent answer," said Sheila McKechnie, director of the association.

The Department of Health said last night the advice of the Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) was that no "further action to protect public or animal health was

necessary" and that children were no more likely to be affected than adults.

The flurry of statements came in response to a report by Jeffrey Almond, Professor of Microbiology at Reading University, who chairs a sheep sub-group recently set up by SEAC to coordinate research.

Professor Almond said: "I think there is a distinct possibility that BSE is out there in the sheep population. I think we found BSE in sheep would be a national emergency. The politicians would have to live with the possibility that if they went down the road of stopping the consumption of sheepmeat, that would be a whole industry collapsing and the consequent cost to the nation of that."

What Professor Almond is saying is not essentially new. The SEAC committee advised the Government two years ago of the risk that BSE might have got into sheep and be disguised as scrapie, which is not harmful to man.

Last month it called on the Government to fund extra research to establish whether this had happened. The main difficulty is that strain-typing tests to show whether an infected sheep is suffering from scrapie or BSE cost £30,000 each and take up to two years to produce results. Only nine have so far been conducted. John Collinge, head of neurogenetics at Imperial College School of Medicine in London, also a member of SEAC, said: "We need to screen thousands of animals. There are quicker and cheaper ways of doing this." Professor Collinge believes the techniques he has used to confirm a new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans linked to BSE-infected beef could be tried on sheep.

Leading article, page 23

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Is BSE in sheep?**  
Nobody knows for sure. Scientists on the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) warned the Government two years ago that there was a possibility that this had happened. So far no "mad cow" disease has been found in Britain's 40 million sheep but as yet no great effort has been made to look for it.

**How could BSE have got into sheep?**  
Laboratory tests have shown that BSE can be passed to sheep by deliberate infection. In the field, the most plausible route would be via meat and bone meal derived from the remains of BSE-infected cattle. This could mean that BSE first went to cattle in meat and bone meal from scrapie-infected sheep and then passed back to sheep. But meat and bone meal has been banned as feed for both cattle and sheep since 1988 and sheep were never fed much of it anyway.

**If BSE is in sheep, can it infect people?**  
It is possible that BSE in sheep would behave no differently from scrapie, which has been around for centuries without causing harm. But SEAC takes the view that if BSE were found in sheep, it would have to be assumed to be a danger to humans, in the same way as BSE in cattle. Since 1995 a total of 27 people have died from new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a fatal brain condition linked to eating contaminated beef.

**Is it safe to eat lamb now?**  
No 100 per cent guarantee can be given. But SEAC thinks the measures in force are enough to protect public health. Any risk, if it existed, is likely to have been in the past and any added danger in continuing to eat lamb is considered to be minuscule. The heads and spleens of sheep of any age, and the spinal cords of sheep over one year old are banned for human consumption, as is meat recovered from the vertebral column of any sheep. Lamb from New Zealand, which has no scrapie or BSE, must be completely safe. Lamb from organic farms, which banned meat and bone meal as feed six years earlier than other farms, is probably the next safest.

**Should lamb be fed to infants who have not eaten it before?**  
The official view of SEAC and the Department of Health is that neither infants nor older children are likely to be any more susceptible to BSE than adults. But both accept that parents may wish to reduce risks for their children "below the level they would expect for themselves".

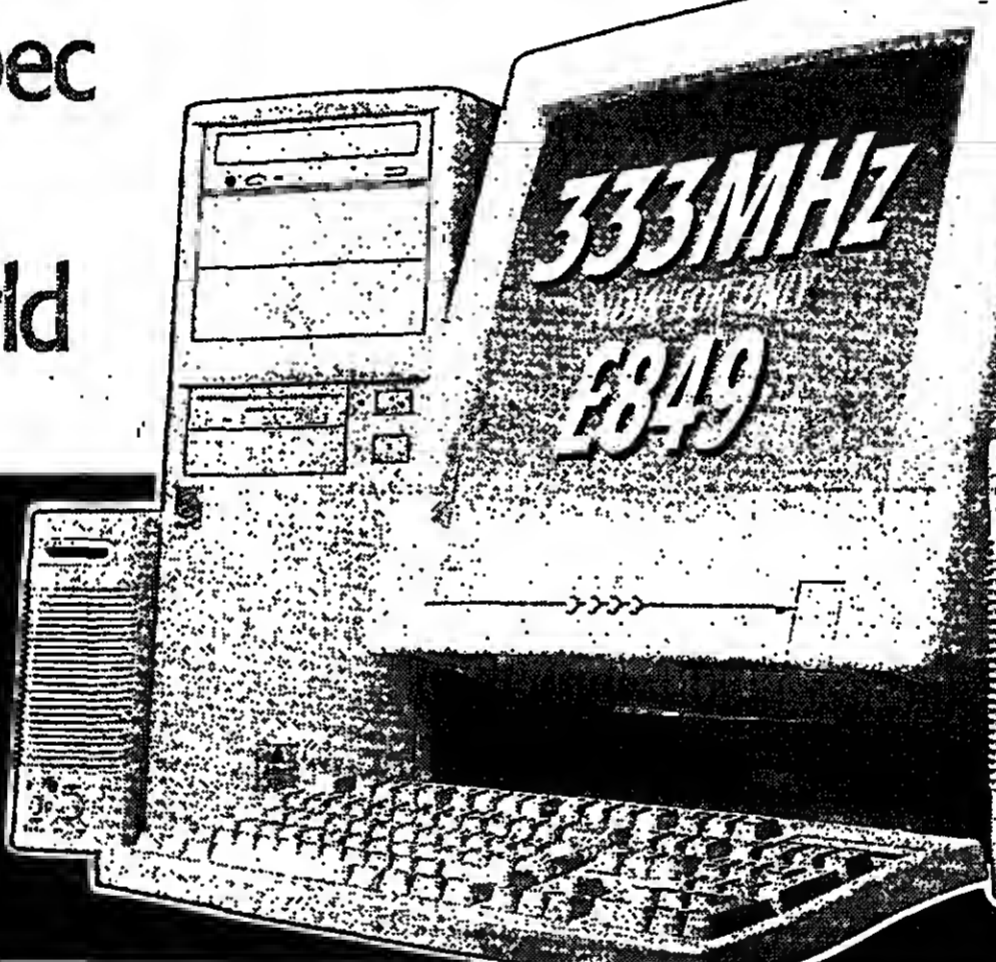
**How can BSE be detected in sheep?**  
With difficulty, as it would look the same as scrapie. Traditional "strain-typing" tests involve infecting tissue from sheep into the brains of mice and seeing if the resulting damage resembles that caused by BSE tissue. Such tests cost £30,000 each and take up to two years. It is not practicable to test tissue from thousands of animals in this way. It may be possible to screen fairly large numbers of sheep quite quickly by other techniques already used to detect the new strain of CJD in humans. SEAC is expected to recommend soon that these should be tried on sheep, but it is not certain how effective they will be. One solution might be to use these techniques to identify suspect cases which could then be double checked by the more laborious strain typing methods.

**How much scrapie is there in sheep?**  
Information is unreliable. It has been a notifiable disease only since 1993, when 328 cases were reported, followed by 235 in 1994, 254 in 1995, 453 in 1996, 465 in 1997 and 175 so far this year. But there may be much under-reporting. Compulsory slaughter of scrapie-infected sheep, with compensation, was introduced only two months ago. Just over 80 suspect animals have been offered for slaughter since then. If BSE had got into sheep, scientists would have expected to see a dramatic surge in reports of scrapie. This does not appear to have happened.

**What should be done if BSE is confirmed in sheep?**  
Jeff Almond, a SEAC member, says the Government would face "a national emergency" and be forced to contemplate slaughtering all flocks with a history of scrapie or even all 40 million sheep in the flock with a history of scrapie infection is more widespread in a sheep carcass, appearing, for example, in the lymph nodes. "BSE is in cattle. This might also hold true for BSE in sheep. Simply removing the most dangerous carcass parts at the abattoir might thus not be a sufficient safeguard. BSE may also be able to spread from animal to animal in sheep, in a way it does not do in cattle, making it much harder to eradicate the disease."

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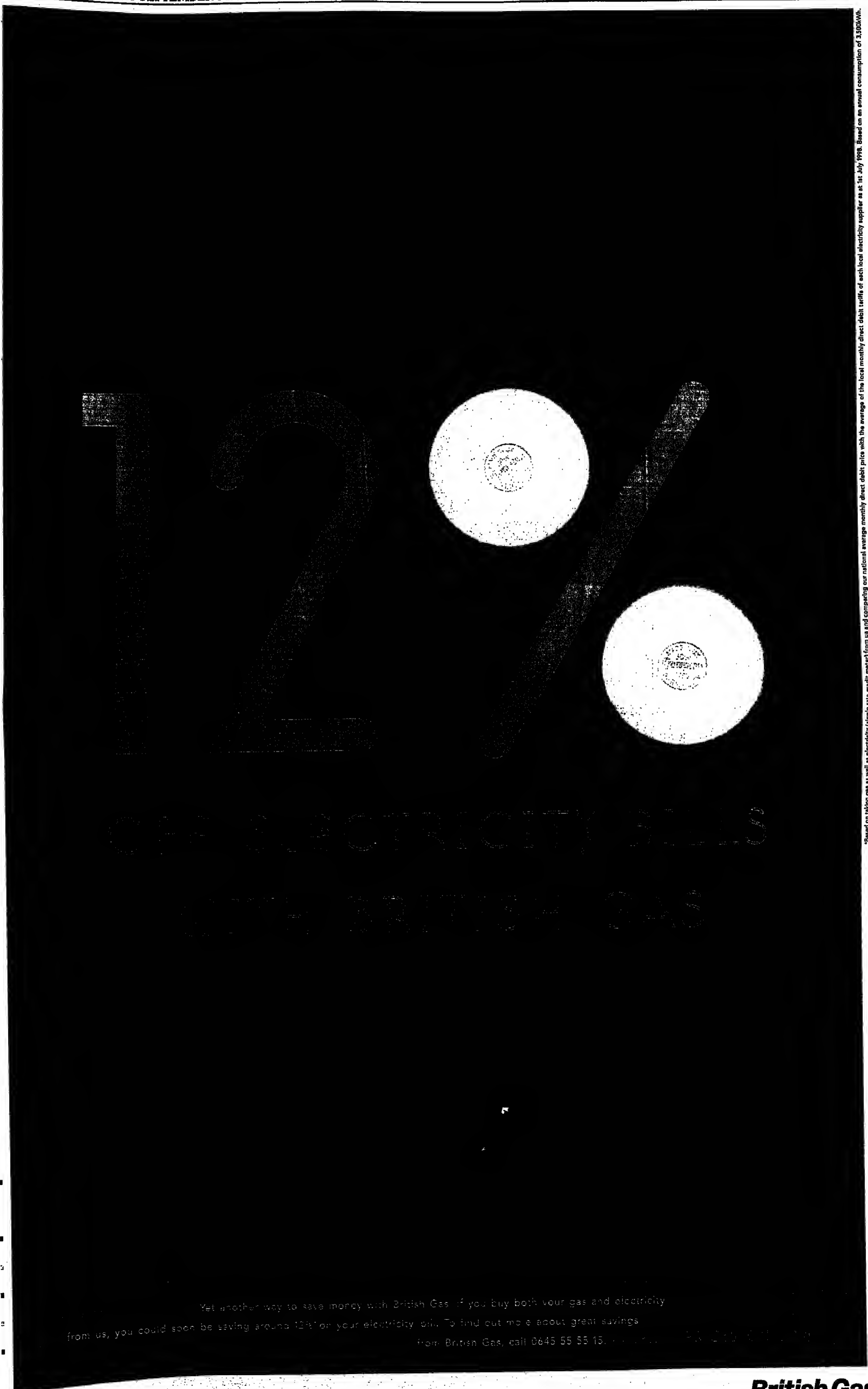
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# Gas crystals on the seabed could be fuel for the next century



Clennell: he said Britain had deposits in Atlantic

VAST fields of gas crystals that could be a new fuel for the next century have been discovered on the seabed. Researchers said yesterday that the reserves of the crystals, called gas hydrates, dwarfed those of coal, oil and natural gas.

Ben Clennell, of Leeds University, told the British Association festival: "A conservative estimate is that there is enough gas locked away in these ice-like hydrates to double all the known fossil fuel resources of the Earth... that have been used or ever will be."

He said that Japan, which was reliant on imports of oil, was starting a multimillion-pound pilot scheme next year to test the technology needed to mine the crystals. They are found at depths of between 500 and 3,000 metres. India, which was also heavily dependent on energy imports, was considering similar work.

In the United States about £60 million was being spent on research into gas hydrates. Big reserves had also been located off Norway. Dr Clennell, of the university's School of Earth Sciences, said that Britain was likely to have deposits in the Atlantic, west of Shetland.

The potential of gas hydrates as a fuel has emerged from the Ocean Drilling Programme, a grouping of scientists from 30 countries — funded in Britain by the Natural Environment Research Council — that is investigating sediments, rocks and muds holding clues to past climates and the evolution of the Earth.

Dr Clennell, who is part of the programme, said yesterday that the crystals were formed from natural gas at low temperatures and high pressures. Conventional resources of natural gas are formed from heat inside the earth. But the gas hydrates are formed from gaseous emissions of marine bacteria trapped in ice-crystal structures a few metres below the ocean bed on the continental margins. Dr Clennell said that the conditions that formed the gas hydrate crystals covered "millions of square kilometres of seabed in both high and low latitudes, including much of the continental slopes of the North Atlantic".

# Three Rs lessons 'will not remedy school failings'

THE extensive programme of testing children's grasp of the three Rs in primary school is unlikely to remedy Britain's failings in education, the president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science said yesterday.

Professor Colin Blakemore told the association's festival in Cardiff that he was astonished at the idea of testing four-year-olds in reading, writing and arithmetic. "Such skills can only have come from parental instruction. This testing will directly disadvantage children from less supportive home backgrounds."

He said that Germany and Switzerland achieved better results in tests of the three Rs, even though children do not start formal instruction until six or seven. "I applaud the efforts of government to increase access to primary education from the age of four, which will help mothers to return to work. But it would be more efficient for such young children to concentrate on 'learning to learn' and on developing group co-operation in problem-solving."

He added: "The three specialised subjects at A level: the three-year Honours degree course; and until this year, free university fees for all. This structure worked well enough in 1962, when I left school, because only five per cent of school leavers went to university. But it is under severe strain now that more than 30 per cent do."

He said teenagers should take five subjects instead of the traditional three at A level, so that every sixth-former studied arts and science. He also said university courses should be lengthened to four years for an honours degree. "That would add greatly to the strain on university staff and facilities, so the majority of students should instead do a two-year Ordinary degree, aimed at providing a well-rounded ad-

vanced education or preparation for vocational training." The Department for Education and Employment said: "We want to identify children's needs and work from that. These tests are diagnostic and we do not intend to rank children on them. The assessments will help give an indication of the value added by the school itself."

The conference also heard that schools should teach the wonder of science if they are to encourage bright pupils to study it at A level and beyond. Simon Jenkins, a millennium commissioner and a former editor of *The Times*, said that the current method of teaching the subject was leaving too many pupils bored and disinclined to pursue higher qualifications or careers in such fields. Those that do go on to university are often of a poor calibre, entering higher education with Ds and Es at A level. On graduating, they find it difficult to find jobs which leads to an apparent oversupply of science graduates.

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Ailsa Hall

# Layer of blubber is a fat lot of use to baby seals

FAT baby seals fare no better than thin ones, scientists have found. The discovery overturns the assumption that a pup needs a good layer of blubber to survive.



A grey seal pup in a coded "hat". Researchers at St Andrews use the hats to monitor survival rates

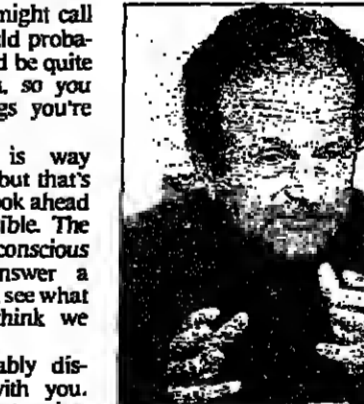
The University of St Andrews, have found that thin and fat seals from the Isle of May, in the Firth of Forth, have identical survival rates in the first nine months of life. The researchers suspect that, at least in Britain, the survival of seals may depend on diseases and pollution rather than the availability of food and extent of fat reserves.

Ailsa Hall, whose work is partly funded by the Government's Natural Environment Research Council, said yesterday that they had compared weaned pups weighing less than 39kg with those weighing over 39kg. In both groups, 62 per cent survived, she told the festival.

# In 40 years' time, computers will be able to answer back

The conscious PC will think like us, and could even make us feel guilty

IN FORTY years' time, we may feel a pang of guilt when we turn our computers off, the festival was told. By then, said Igor Aleksander, of Imperial College London, computers will possess a consciousness of their own. "By then, we wouldn't think of buying a computer that wasn't conscious," he said. "In fact, their consciousness should be indistinguishable from ours."



Aleksander: predicted an era of strotty computers

Adams dreamed up a depressed robot called Marvin the Paranoid Android in his radio play *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Professor Aleksander said: "The point is not to build robots that go around being depressed — that's been done beautifully by Douglas Adams. The point is to find out what happens to humans when they get depressed."

# Death rates fell as smokers quit

BRITAIN has cut deaths from tobacco faster than any other nation in the world, a leading epidemiologist said. Over the past 25 years, deaths attributable to cigarettes had fallen in Britain from 80,000 to 40,000. Professor Richard Peto, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's unit at Oxford University, told the festival. Over the same period, British cigarette sales had fallen from 150 billion a year to 80 billion.

THE Scott inquiry into the sale of arms to Iraq had been conducted unfairly, creating injustice to the ministers involved, Lord Howe of Aberavon told the festival.

Lord Howe, a former Foreign Secretary and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, presented the findings from his research into the role and management of public inquiries. He said that the procedure adopted by Lord Justice Scott had made scapegoats of at least two members of the last Government — William Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyall — and exposed them to "long-term pursuit".

سكزا من الأهل



# Poor shun visits to doctor and the dentist

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

FEWER poor people are seeing their doctors and dentists than five years ago, according to a survey by the National Consumer Council published today. The better-off, however, are using the National Health Service more often.

The trend continues one first noticed when the council made a similar survey in 1993, "but the gap between the higher and lower social groups seems to have widened, especially for GPs and dental services," the report says. "The highest incidence of illness is experienced by those who are worst off in society and it is worrying if our findings mean that the NHS may not be used appropriately by those who need it."

The figures show a reduction since 1993 in the overall numbers visiting their GP. While 78 per cent attended a surgery at least once in 12 months five years ago, the rate is down to 71 per cent now. However, among the top two social classes, the proportion paying at least one visit has risen to 79 per cent, while in the lowest two classes it has fallen to 66 per cent.

Official government figures show that the number of consultations each GP gives in a year has risen by 18.4 per cent over the past decade from 9,355 to 10,090. John Chisholm, chairman of the British Medical Association's GPs committee, said: "Doctors are working harder than ever, but the Consumer Council survey suggests that they are seeing people more frequently than in the past."

"Sadly the fact that fewer lower-class people are coming

is an example of what is known as the inverse care law — those who are deprived get less benefit for a variety of reasons than those who are better off."

For visits to the dentist the gap is even wider, with those in the top classes almost twice as likely to have a regular check-up. Overall, the proportion visiting a dentist fell from 56 per cent five years ago to 51 per cent — only just above the 50 per cent level in 1979. Among the better off the figure was 68 per cent, against 35 per cent for poorer people.

While 75 per cent are registered with a dentist, 16 per cent of those are with a private one. A third of patients who tried to find an NHS dentist over the year had difficulty in doing so.

Ruth Evans, director of the Consumer Council, said: "People in lower socio-economic groups are least likely to visit the dentist, suggesting that cost is a major deterrent. Access to NHS dental care is not as widespread as it was before 1990. Recent changes, like removing patients from lists when they haven't had a check-up for 15 months, exacerbate the problem."

Charges for eye tests, introduced in 1989, are also blamed for the drop in numbers visiting an optician from 38 to 30 per cent over the five years.

The proportion going to a chiropodist has almost halved from 9 to 5 per cent over the period, even though these services are most commonly used by elderly people and the average age of the population is rising. "This decline may indicate the withdrawal in many areas of basic chiropody, particularly for elderly people," the report says.

The numbers using hospital services have remained static over the five years, with 24 per cent visiting an out-patient unit, 14 per cent attending an accident and emergency department and 13 per cent being admitted for treatment.

The survey, which interviewed 1,900 people, shows that overwhelmingly patients had confidence in the NHS. But those who did complain appeared to receive little or no response. Mixed hospital wards were widely disliked, especially by women and older people.

Body and mind, page 18



Evans said dental costs were a major deterrent

## Drug tests on youth who died at club

By Paul Wilkinson

FURTHER scientific tests are to be carried out to establish the cause of the death of a 16-year-old who collapsed after apparently taking the drug Ecstasy.

A post-mortem examination on Thomas Skilloon, from Gateshead, failed to find a cause for the heart attack he suffered outside the After Dark club in South Shields on Tyneside. Friends who helped him out of the club early on Sunday morning when he felt ill said he had taken the drug, but yesterday the club manager rejected any suggestion that Ecstasy was on sale inside his premises. Toxicology tests are being carried out.

Detective Inspector Peter Farrell, of South Shields CID, said: "We know Thomas went to the club with three friends just before midnight. At around 4am he became visibly unwell and at 6am he went outside and an ambulance was called."

"Witnesses told the paramedics he had taken Ecstasy but until the results of blood tests come back we won't know for sure. We are keen to know for whoever called the ambulance and anyone who was in the club on Saturday." David Mallin, the club manager, said: "I am devastated by what has happened and by what happened outside my club. My sympathy goes to the young man's family. But if this young man's death is an Ecstasy-related death it is an Ecstasy-related death he definitely did not buy it here. I am certain of that."

"This is a popular, trouble-free club. I am constantly bawling with police to make sure it stays that way. Everyone who comes in here is searched and there are cameras."

## Pensioner caused a pile-up in car park

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

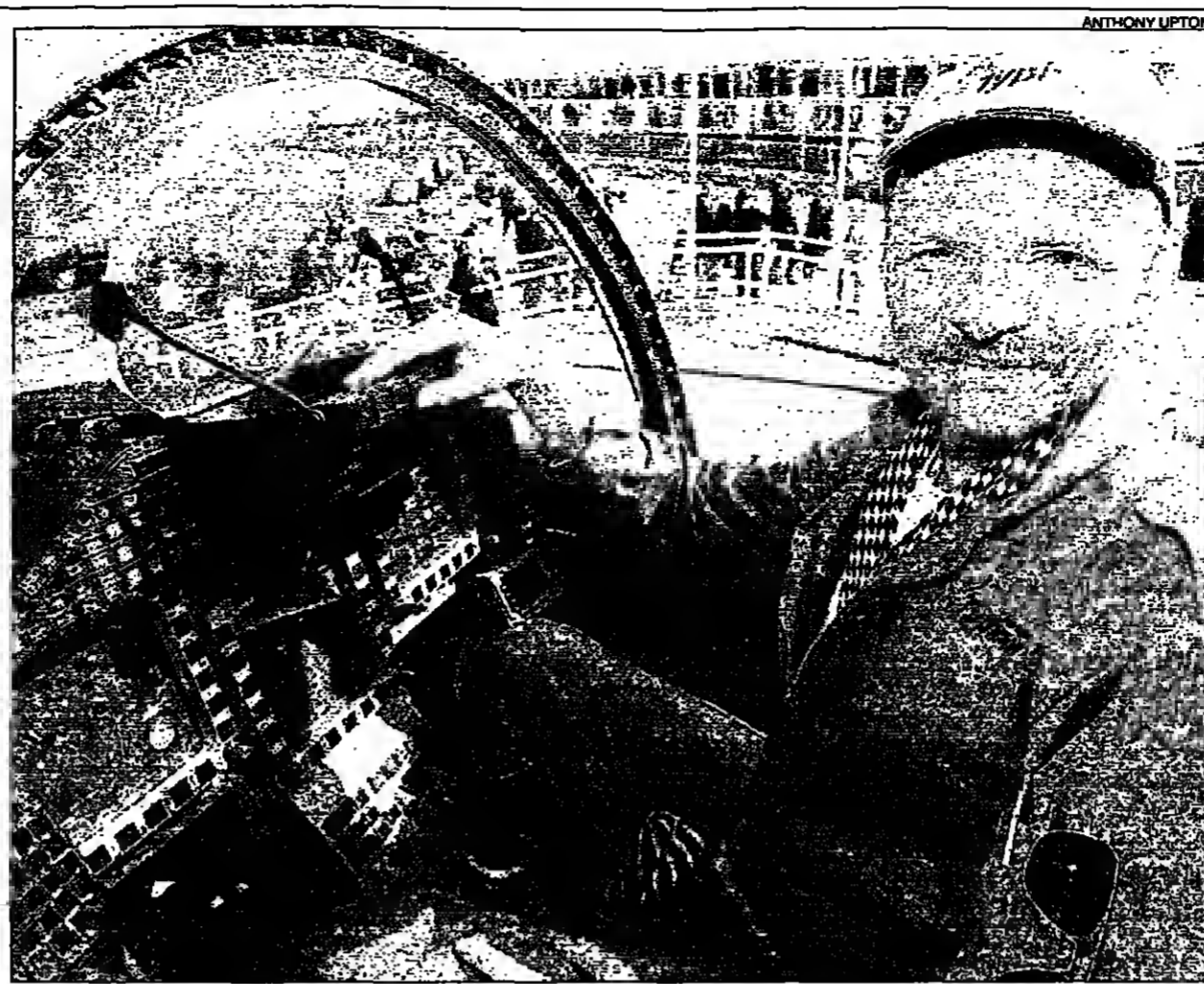
AT THE wheel of his trusty Ford Granada, Robert Strickland was a model driver with more than 60 accident-free years on the road. But his one attempt to park a powerful sports car ended in near disaster.

A crowd watched in astonishment as Strickland, 85, who was searching for a space in a hospital car park, accelerated at speed into a Ford Fiesta. He then reversed into a Vauxhall Astra, shot forward again, hitting a Renault Clio, ploughed into an Austin Metro and shunted into a Vauxhall Corsa that, in turn, crashed into a Subaru Legacy. Finally Strickland hurtled through a fence before the car came to a halt in someone's front garden. Staff at Perth Royal Infirmary, who had been watching, treated him for bruising and shoulder injuries.

Yesterday Perth Sheriff Court was told that Strickland, who lives alone in Crieff, Perthshire, had been driving since 1935. The accident in January this year was his first motoring offence.

Sheriff Sandy Eccles, who heard that Strickland had passed a driving competency test in June, fined him £450 and imposed seven penalty points on his licence. He told him: "I am considerably concerned with the circumstances of this incident, but on balance I'm prepared not to disqualify you from driving. But if a similar incident were to occur again that would be the realistic outcome."

Afterwards Strickland refused to comment. He was driven away by a friend.



Chris Worning, a Eurofighter Typhoon test pilot, in the "pilot-friendly" cockpit at Farnborough yesterday

## Typhoon takes Blair by storm

By Eve-Ann Prentice

THE newly christened Typhoon Eurofighter made a spectacular debut at the Farnborough Air Show yesterday, and few were more impressed than Tony Blair.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by the Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, seemed impossible to separate from the new warplane on the opening day of the week-long show. The Typhoon was flanked by the RAF's Red Arrows in a fly-past as the Prime Minister opened the event. Soon afterwards, Mr Blair was to be found closely inspecting the aircraft's gadgetry and meeting some of its pilots.

One of them, Chris Worning, lavished praise on the aircraft's manoeuvrability, but said it had not always been a joy to handle.

"The brakes were a catastrophe to begin with," he said. "They were very snappy and the anti-skid system was not so good."

But Mr Worning, a Dane who flies for Daimler-Benz Aerospace, said the aircraft was now "stunning. I have

never sat in such a pilot-friendly cockpit. The radar is astounding and the aeroplane is amazingly agile."

The multinational Eurofighter consortium has already signed contracts to supply 620 Typhoons to the air forces of Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Mr Blair yesterday applauded Britain's "strong aerospace industry" as the Boeing Corporation licked its wounds after last week's announcement that British Airways was to buy European Airbus aircraft for the first time. Boeing's president, Harry Stonecipher, yesterday admitted his company had been "too arrogant".

The Society of British Aerospace Companies, which hosts Farnborough, has arranged one of the biggest exhibitions in its history. About 170 aircraft will appear, 25 making their debut. Nearly 1,200 companies will vie for business among an expected 135,000 trade visitors during the week.

Boeing arrogance, page 28

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# Mother's response to the tragedy of war

### Alan Hamilton on how a woman who lost her three sons ensured that their fighting spirit would live on

IN Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*, six American soldiers risk their lives to rescue a paratrooper and preserve his family line after his three brothers have been killed in action.

The MacRobert family of Tarland, Aberdeenshire, was struck by tragedy. When the Queen visits their former estate near Balmoral today, she will learn of a mother's remarkable response on losing her three sons, two of them in action during the Second World War.

As the Queen tours what is now a retirement home run by the RAF Benevolent Fund, a Tornado from XV(R) Squadron at RAF Lussiemouth will fly overhead in salute. It will be too high and too fast to read the words "MacRobert's Reply" painted beneath the cockpit window.

Rachel MacRobert was a steely, determined woman struck by tragedy. An American, she was the granddaughter of a former Governor of Massachusetts and her father was William Workman, the eminent Malayayan explorer. She was educated at Cheltenham Ladies' College so that her parents could visit as they passed through England on their various expeditions.

In 1911 she married Sir Alexander MacRobert, a Scottish laird who had made a fortune in India. He died in 1922, leaving Lady MacRobert widowed at 38.

One tragedy followed another. Their eldest son, Alastair, was killed in a flying accident at Luton in 1938. Her next, Roderic, died when his Hurricane attacked German fighter squadrons on the



Crest on Tornado: glory rewards the brave

ground at Mosul, Iraq. And her last, Iain, was lost aged 24 when his aircraft went missing while searching for Flamborough Head in 1941.

Lady MacRobert was determined that her family should be remembered. She wrote out a cheque for £25,000 and sent it to Sir Archibald Sinclair, the Secretary of State for Air, ordering him to buy a Stirling bomber and name it "MacRobert's Reply".

In her covering letter, she made her feelings plain. "It is my wish to make a mother's immediate reply, in the way that I know would also be my boys' reply - attacking, striking sharply, straight to the mark. . . if I had ten sons, I know they would all have followed that line of duty. It is with a mother's pride that I enclose my cheque of £25,000, and with it goes my sympathy to those mothers who have also lost sons and gratitude to all mothers whose sons so gallantly carry on the fight."

The first MacRobert's Reply took to the air in 1941. Since then, XV Squadron has

never been without one. The name was transferred to a Lancaster in 1943, a Lincoln in 1947, a Washington in 1950, a Canberra in 1953, a Victor in 1958 and a Buccaneer in 1970. Since 1983, the name, tartan flash and crest have been carried by a Tornado GR1. Soon after her first donation, Lady MacRobert gave another £20,000 to buy four Hurricanes, three of them named after her sons and the fourth "MacRobert's Salute To Russia - The Lady". She also gave a house on her estate as a recuperation centre for air crew, and her home at Douneside is today a guesthouse for officers of the three armed services.

Wing Commander Graham Dixon, commander of XV Squadron, who will fly the Tornado over Tarland, with his navigator, Squadron Leader Gary Harrison, said yesterday: "MacRobert's Reply is a very important tradition to us. It shows the lady's strength of character. We are very proud of the connection; I cannot imagine the squadron ever giving it up."

Lady MacRobert died in 1954 with no one to carry on the estate she had successfully managed since the death of her husband. It is now run by the wealthy MacRobert charitable trusts, administered by Major General John Barr.

"She must have been a lady of very stern discipline. She was a pioneer of modern farming. Her tenants regarded her with great respect, although perhaps not a lot of affection," General Barr said.

A clue to her character may lie in her building a garage for her Rolls-Royce and an adjoining cottage for her chauffeur.



Lady MacRobert with her sons Alastair, left, Roderic and Iain. She lost all three in the space of three years



The first "MacRobert's Reply" in 1941 and, right, Wing Commander Graham Dixon with today's version



DOUNESIDE, TARLAND, ABERDEENSHIRE.

TARLAND 20.

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My thoughts and those of thousands of other mothers are with you and we are truly grateful to all concerned. Also my thanks to those who have the care of my "Reply", and prepare her for her flights. May the blows you strike bring us nearer to Victory.

God Bless You All.

29/8/41 Rachel MacRobert

Lady MacRobert made her gesture on behalf of all the mothers who had lost sons

## Salvaged Baltic Sea champagne loses none of its fizz

By Robin Young

THE bottom of the Baltic sea is a better place to store champagne than the makers' cellars, according to Christie's auction house.

Christie's experts who tasted two bottles of Heidsieck Monopole 1907, which had spent more than 80 years underwater, said it had lost none of its fizz. "I have never tasted wine of this age tasting so fresh," said Tom Stevenson, the author of *Christie's World Encyclopedia of Champagnes and Sparkling Wines*.

Duncan McEuen, another Christie's specialist, said: "The wine is absolutely bright with an extremely positive nose, rich, buttery and biscuity. It is very intense and completely clear and fresh and youthful."

Twenty-four bottles of the wine, which was salvaged from the wreck of the two-masted wooden schooner *Jonkoping*, sunk by a German submarine on November 3, 1916, will be auctioned next month. Two thousand bottles were recovered from the wreck. The consignment may have been intended for the Russian Imperial Army.

Peter Lindberg, of the salvage crew, said: "At the bottom of the Baltic the salinity is almost nil. It is like cold fresh water, under 4C. There are none of the bacteria or marine life that would ordinarily attack corks, and much of the metal in the wreck is almost completely uncorroded." Even some of the wire retaining the corks had survived.

The bottles, which are to be sold individually on October 22, are expected to fetch more than £500 each, putting them in the top bracket of champagne prices, despite the fact that 1907 was not a vintage of any special reputation. From a modern drinker's point of view, an added handicap is that the wine is *Gout Americain*, meaning it has a heavy dosage of sugar.

The bottles on display showed no sign of salt or sand scouring, though there was granular silt under the wax covering that had been applied to protect the corks since the bottles came out of the sea in May.

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## A solution could mak problem w

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صكرا من الأهل

# Europhiles condemn Hague's euro ballot

Critics say vote will be a bogus loyalty test, reports James Landale

PRO-EUROPEAN Tories angrily dismissed the snap ballot called by William Hague on the single European currency yesterday as a political stunt.

They said the move would damage the party's credibility in Europe and entrench internal divisions rather than end them. The Tory leader also faced criticism from grassroots activists who expressed concern that the ballot was being held before they had had given the chance to debate the issue at the annual party conference. They added that the ballot would be a "bogus" test of loyalty to Mr Hague and not a true assessment of the party's attitude to the issue.

Euro-sceptic Tories praised Mr Hague's courage in bringing the issue to a head.

The Europhile counter-attack was led by Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, who said the ballot would have little impact. He reassured his view that Britain should

initially wait and see but be prepared to join the currency if it was in the national interest.

"My view of the national interest will not be changed by the results of a snap vote of party activists," he said. "I will have a free vote in Parliament whenever the issue arises."

He admitted that Mr Hague would get a good majority for his appeal, "which will be treated as a request for personal backing for the leader from the membership." He would not campaign before the ballot, he said: "I prefer to campaign against the Labour Party rather than against members of my own party."

Mr Clarke added that the party should broaden rather than narrow its appeal "by focusing on an exclusive view on this issue."

Sir Edward Heath said it was "absolutely unjustified" to hold a ballot before the party had had the chance to discuss the issue at conference. "This ballot should be condemned completely," the former Prime

Minister said. "It is entirely unnecessary. You can carry on having this discussion within the party without having a ballot. The rest of the country and Europe will just regard it as a smart alec attempt to get his own way without proper discussion within the party."

Conservative Mainstream, the umbrella organisation representing several pro-European groups in the party, admitted that Mr Hague would win his ballot but insisted it would change nothing. "We would regret a result on this issue which reinforces the party being perceived as anti-European," a spokesman said.

Ian Taylor, the pro-European Tory MP for Esher and Walton who resigned from the front bench last year in protest at Mr Hague's decision to rule out a single currency for two Parliaments, said the ballot would "lock in divisions within the party." He added: "It solves the problems of conference at the expense of the longer-term credibility of the

Tory party. Any party leader who thinks that he can decide now on a policy towards the single most important economic debate facing us is not showing that he is preparing for office."

Eric Chalker, deputy chairman of the Charter Movement, a group campaigning for greater Tory party democracy, said that greater discussion should take place before a ballot is held. "This is a little premature. The trouble with Mr Hague's ballots is that they all seem designed to help him do what he wants to do anyway."

He added: "Most members of the party are deeply concerned about European Monetary Union but they want more information. I wish he would hold ballots in a way that encourages party members to think that he really wants to know what they think instead of seeking to use them for his own ends as some form of personal endorsement."

Michael Portillo, the former



William Hague announcing the ballot yesterday. His opponents say it will entrench divisions, not end them

Defence Secretary, applauded Mr Hague's decision as "typically courageous and straightforward. I share Mr Hague's lucidly-expressed worries about the single currency. The Government would like no discussion about it. It is

highly desirable that the issue should be debated between the parties now and at the next general election."

A spokesman for Conservatives Against a Single Currency said: "At long last the Conservative Party will be able

to make its mark against EMU. For years we have seen on the doorstep how ordinary people are incensed at the prospect of losing their pound. Now, we will all have the chance to help fight to save it."

Sir Teddy Taylor, the

Euro-sceptic MP for Rochford and Southend East, said that the move was "the only way to sort out this great problem and to enable the party to revive again".

Leading article, page 25

## A solution that could make the problem worse

THE decision to launch an immediate ballot of Conservative members on the single currency is misguided, short-sighted and likely to backfire. No one really doubts that William Hague will probably win an overwhelming majority — at least three or four to one — for the leadership's opposition to British membership at the next election and in the next parliament. That may ensure a smoother passage at the October conference, but thereafter it will not, indeed cannot, end argument on the issue and it risks aggravating the party's deep divisions.

Tory strategists are, as so often, trying to copy the Blair strategy of 1994-97 — take a tough stance on a divisive issue, win the overwhelming endorsement of party mem-

bers and isolate the minority of dissidents. But they are failing to spot the critical differences between Mr Blair's assault on Clause Four and old Labour in 1994-95 and Mr Hague's attempt to isolate pro-Europeans now.

Mr Hague said his party "must first deal with one last part of the legacy of the past". That was true of Clause Four, a legacy of Labour's foundation, which is why its defenders were on such weak ground. But the single currency is an issue of the future, not the past. Mr Hague wants to say after the ballot, on the first day of conference, that "now we have settled this matter and can speak with clarity and certainty on this issue — now we are free to move on". But the party and national arguments on a single currency will continue, and probably intensify, after the euro is launched next January.

Moreover, the opponents of rewriting Clause Four were depicted as out-of-touch extremists. By contrast, Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke are not only better known but also more popular

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

than virtually all of the Shadow Cabinet — even though the majority of the public agrees more with the sceptic stand of Mr Hague. The pro-Europeans and monetary union sympathisers may be a smallish minority, but they are likely to retain a favourable public image.

Mr Hague was careful to say that EMU sympathisers would not be required to remain silent or to change their views after the ballot. But not all in the party may share his sensible tolerance. Some hotheads have talked of purging dissenters, who have even been stupidly described as Vichyites. Such language is bound to lead to resentment among pro-European MPs and MEPs and even defections to other parties or separate pro-EMU Tory candidates in elections under proportional representation.

The Hague camp said that the move would publicly demonstrate his ability to take tough decisions, while the ballot will produce a clear, certain and settled policy on the euro, ending any public uncertainty about whether the line may change. And Messrs Clarke and Heseltine can be presented as speaking for themselves rather than for the party. Tory strategists argue that this clarity will become more popular as the election approaches in view of the Government's deliberate ambiguity, which may, of course, not last that long.

A better course would have been to follow the advice offered by Chris Patten on *Breakfast with Frost* on Sunday and take a lesson from Harold Wilson, "who constructed a policy for Labour which enabled people to argue on different sides in a [national] referendum campaign while being on the same side in an election campaign". Mr Hague will need the pro-Europeans if he is to win the next election. Purity and clarity will only ensure even longer in opposition.

PETER RIDDELL

## How the plotters were outflanked

By Roland Watson, Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE was holidaying in Colorado when he learnt that his party's pro-European elders were busy plotting.

They aimed to surprise him at the party's October conference with a show of strength that would frighten him away from the idea of a ballot to give him the sceptical line on the single European currency rank-and-file endorsement. Mr Hague realised that this was a moment of truth, and decided to bring the battle forward. He ordered his office to draw up plans to outflank the Europhiles.

Until then, it had been in Mr Hague's mind to hold a ballot well before next year's elections to the European Parliament. But now the matter was urgent.

Back at Conservative Central Office, his close advisers at first suggested that he

might use his opening speech to the Bournemouth conference to announce the ballot. It was only when one pointed out that the party's computerised database of its 350,000 members was almost complete that the prospect of holding the vote — and announcing the result — before the conference emerged.

Explaining his move yesterday, Mr Hague spoke emotionally about last year's general election. Disunity over Europe was, he said, "an argument that has debilitated and divided our party for too long. I vowed to myself that night that we would never let such a defeat happen again. I vowed that never again would we allow the electorate to see us as divided and out of touch."

His aides said the idea of the ballot was to remove the last obstacle between the Tories and electoral success.



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# Testimony of Holocaust 'survivor' denounced as fiction

By Roger Boyes



A BEST-SELLING memoir of a child's nightmarish experiences of Majdanek and Auschwitz concentration camps has been denounced as a work of imagination, triggering a fierce debate among scholars of Holocaust literature.

Memories were repressed not only by his foster parents but also by the tight corset of Swiss society. Now, after psychotherapy, his memories have come flooding back. They are very graphic: he tells of the blood shooting out of the neck of his father, of the rats scrambling over the mountains of corpses.

Book Review and elsewhere for its descriptive powers. One reviewer, the children's book author Maurice Sendak, said it was final proof that children, in particular children of the Holocaust, can hang on to the very earliest of memories.

no Doesseker, a Swiss citizen who was indeed adopted. But birth certificates and school records show that his childhood was not spent in concentration camps. Rather he was born, illegitimately, in Switzerland on February 12, 1941.

anonymously children from the camps as if he were one of them. His publisher, Suhrkamp, argues that the detailed reminiscences were revived as the result of "recovered memory therapy", the controversial method applied to suspected victims of child abuse.

dated, but Mr Ganzfried holds this to be improbable. The importance of the debate is that many on the far Right are contesting the details, and therefore the veracity, of the Holocaust. Witness accounts are essential. That is why Steven Spielberg set up the Shoah Foundation to interview survivors.

# Schröder aims for gay vote to clinch victory

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE four-times-married Social Democrat contender for the leadership of Germany, Gerhard Schröder, is wooing gay voters before the general election this month. Analysts claim that homosexuals and lesbians make up between 8 and 10 per cent of the population in many urban constituencies — enough to tilt the elections against Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor.

If the Greens form a government with the Social Democrats — as appears possible, according to the latest opinion polls — the sexual reforms would be even more radical, since they back adoption rights for gay couples. The Greens want to amend 50 different laws to prevent discrimination against homosexual couples. Gay rights groups complain that they are often evicted from their flats after the death of their partner.

Hilgert, a Green city councillor in Düsseldorf, is trying to make buildings available for gay youth centres and wants social care introduced for young male prostitutes. The Christian Democrats and, above all, their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, are adamantly opposed to anything that might compromise their position on family values.



Zülle, left, and Meier, two of the Festina team members accused of using performance-enhancing substances during the Tour de France race

# Tour de France cyclists 'admit taking dope'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

MOST members of the Festina cycling team have confessed to taking banned performance-enhancing drugs regularly under the supervision of team doctors, according to leaked police reports that will further tarnish the reputation of the sport after the debacle of this year's Tour de France.

Mr Zülle reportedly told police. The Swiss Festina rider admitted using the drugs for four years "before very important races". Armin Meier also described his use of the banned stimulant, "With Festina, I only had EPO," he told investigators. "Before coming to Festina, I got the products myself in Switzerland."

## Adenauer denied to extreme Right

Cologne: The grandson of Konrad Adenauer, West Germany's first postwar Chancellor, won a court battle yesterday blocking the far-right Republicans from broadcasting an advert saying Adenauer would vote for them if he were alive. German broadcasters have refused to use the advert, saying it defamed Adenauer. (Reuters)

# Insults fly in Left Bank cafés as intellectuals court screen fame

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

FRENCH intellectuals have cast aside their highbrow prose and pretensions to swap playground insults in a row over their unstinting efforts to appear on television. The man at the centre of the slanging match is Pierre Bourdieu, the most influential intellectual in France, a widely quoted academic in the world and a notoriously blunt speaker.

he has no time for critics. During the 1995 general strike over welfare reform, he came out in support of the unions and condemned as a "plague" the centre-left intellectuals who said France could not spend unlimited amounts on social security.

The sociologist, for instance, recently dismissed a key work by Alain Minc, France's leading economist, as "crap". He also sank his teeth into Bernard-Henri Lévy, the flamboyant philosopher who frequents the fashionable cafés on the Left Bank. M Lévy, he said, was typical of a new breed of "negative intellectual" who thinks in clichés and talks in soundbites because of his "immoderate taste" for television studios.

dieu of wooing the media with the same determination that he invariably denounces when others behave in a similar manner. In a recent editorial, *Esprit* said the sociologist was guilty of "populism", "stupidity" and a "Stalinist approach" to anyone who opposes him.

# Stargazers driven from papal paradise

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIAN astrologers yesterday hit back at the Pope for warning Roman Catholics "not to put their faith in the stars". But his remarks have struck a nerve in Italy, where officials are alarmed by the increasing use of palm readers and soothsayers as well as the growth of sinister occult sects.



The Pope addresses the Castelgandolfo crowds

rious signals which he places in our everyday lives". Vatican officials said the Pope's forthcoming encyclical on "false ideologies", entitled *Faith and Reason*, would be issued next week — a month earlier than planned — because of the pontiff's concern over the popularity of New Age movements.

clans, said astrologers wanted "more respect for our profession. More and more people turn to us to resolve their love lives. They have a right to the truth, and revealing it is within our power". A leading clairvoyant called Annamaria said the Pope was right to call people to prayer, which offered comfort.

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# Christians say sorry for Crusades

Nine hundred years after Muslims were put to the sword, an army of reconciliation is marching on the Holy Land, Nicholas Blanford reports in Beirut

A GROUP of 16 Western volunteers has arrived in Lebanon to apologise to Arabs for the atrocities committed by the Crusaders, 900 years after the Christian warriors first set foot in the Holy Land.

The group, wearing T-shirts inscribed with 'We apologise' in Arabic, plans to spend the next six months stopping people on the street to express their regrets for the carnage caused by their European forebears.

"Our reconciliation walk is the response of the hearts of Western Christians burdened by the atrocities committed by the Crusaders," Matthew Hand, an American and the programme's director, said. "We are ashamed of what happened during the Crusades and some of the Crusaders' mentality still persists in the West."

The group, from countries as diverse as the United States, Norway, France and Canada, took its message to the Hamra district of west Beirut yesterday to confront a bemused selection of shoppers, taxi drivers, street-sellers and students.

"My people killed men and women in your land a long time ago and I am very sorry

for that," the Rev Tim Atkins from Guildford told two politely attentive Lebanese in a seashore café. "I want to talk to as many people as possible, especially the young," explained Mr Atkins, showing the two men snapshots of his family and church in England.

Before leaving their hotel they had received a briefing on local customs from Cathy Nobles, one of the organisers.

"We explained to them that people in the East use less facial expressions than we do in the West, so they are not disappointed with an apparent lack of reaction," she said. But for the Lebanese, the repentant foreigners provided a welcome diversion, although some were hazy on their knowledge of the Crusades.

"I do not know about history but I do know that our understanding with people in the West would accomplish peace faster in the south," said Mustafa Hammoud, referring to Israel's 20-year occupation of south Lebanon.

Each volunteer handed out cards with a printed apology on behalf of their ancestors, in English and Arabic. "Lebanon is characterised by sectarianism which tore it apart during 17 years of civil war," said Abdeljalil Hallak. "Their mission will be successful in our country because we have big hearts and understand what coexistence between Muslims and Christians means."

Mrs Nobles said that a large number of Americans had volunteered partly due to Washington's policies in the Middle East. "There are many in the Middle East today who perceive Americans as the new Crusaders and this is something we hope to redress."

Benjamin Gibson, 12, from the United States, the youngest volunteer, read dozens of books about the Crusades before embarking on the trip with his mother, Nancy. "I am apologising for something bad

that my ancestors did a long time ago. I am ashamed it has taken us such a long time to come out and say it," he said.

The Crusades began in November 1095, when Pope Urban II called upon Western Christendom to take up the sword to "liberate the Holy Land". The Crusaders left a bloody trail in their wake as they marched across Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) and down the Levantine coast to Jerusalem.

The "reconciliation walk" began in Cologne in 1996 and has attracted 1,000 volunteers who have followed the route of the Crusaders through Eastern Europe and Turkey.

The volunteers, whose numbers are expected to increase in Lebanon over the next few months, plan to visit other Lebanese cities before leaving for Israel in March.

Their act of repentance ends in Jerusalem on July 15, the 900th anniversary of the sacking of the city, when up to 70,000 Muslims were put to the sword.



Richard the Lionheart, acclaimed as a chivalrous warrior, launched the Third Crusade in 1190. He did not reach Jerusalem, but his legacy was the capture of Cyprus from which future Crusades were to be launched

## Jews still settling in disputed territories

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE number of Jewish settlers in areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip still under Israeli occupation has risen by 12.4 per cent in the past 18 months to a record of nearly 170,000, according to figures published yesterday.

The new figures showed that at the end of June 169,359 Jews were living in the two disputed areas — 163,173 of them in the West Bank and 6,186 in the Gaza Strip.

Confirmation of the rapid rise in the number of settlers, described by the Palestinians as the main obstacle to any lasting peace settlement, came only 48 hours before US special envoy Dennis Ross is due to start a new shuttle peace mission designed to break an 18-month stalemate in peace talks.

Despite repeated US requests for a halt to settlement expansion, Israel has insisted that what officials have described as "natural growth" of the settler population must be permitted to go ahead.



Saladin: declared jihad against Christians

## Battles for Jerusalem

THE eight recognised Crusades were military expeditions organised by Western Christians against the Muslims to try to take control of Jerusalem and the Holy Land. They immortalised the men who fought on both sides, most famously Richard the Lionheart, and Saladin (Matthew Pryor writes).

Between 1095 and 1291 the Crusaders led armies of up to 50,000 men in sieges which often lasted several years and involved months of travelling. They left behind them quasi-feudal kingdoms, the last of which, Acre, survived until 1291. Richard I was the most

famous Crusader from England, but while he epitomised the image of the chivalrous warrior, in reality he preferred planning sieges and designing siege engines to fighting. He never reached Jerusalem, but his legacy was the capture of Cyprus in 1192 from which future Crusades were launched.

Saladin was one of the greatest Muslim leaders and led the jihad (holy war) against Christians from 1169 until his death in 1193. He stopped Richard I from taking Jerusalem, sparking the decline of large-scale expeditions.

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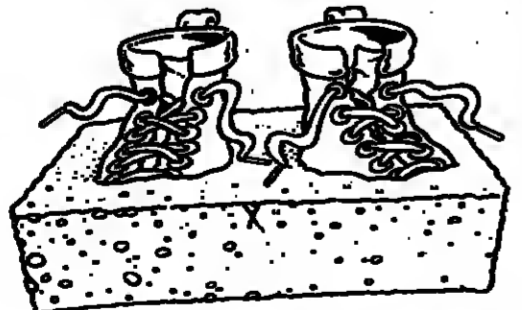
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# Communists put Yeltsin on rack

The Duma's rejection of Yeltsin's candidate for Prime Minister gives him one less card to play, writes **Robin Lodge** in Moscow

**PRESIDENT YELTSIN** now has one week to decide whether to tackle the Russian parliament head on and force a crucial third vote on Viktor Chernomyrdin's candidacy as Prime Minister, or choose between three or four alternatives who would be more acceptable to the legislature.

To take the first option would be far riskier. The Duma is in fighting mood. While a number of Communists would be likely to cave in, particularly if offered the chance of a secret ballot, rather than risk losing their seats in new parliamentary elections, there is a growing awareness in the party that a capitulation would lose them all credibility.

The Opposition is showing a new unity of resolve and Mr Yeltsin cannot even be sure that the Duma would accept his orders for its dissolution should it vote three times against his choice as Prime Minister.

Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, was already speaking last week of bringing people onto the streets and blocking roads into Moscow in order

Former General Aleksandr Lebed, the Governor of Krasnoyarsk, would be ideal from this point of view. He has, moreover, the backing of Boris Berezovsky, the industrial magnate and power broker, and has close links with Mr Chernomyrdin. The Communists, aware that if this third vote went against the candidate they would face dissolution of the Duma, might well be satisfied with their defeat of Mr Chernomyrdin and retire from the fray.

But whether Mr Yeltsin would risk installing a man who has in the past been one of his most vociferous critics and makes no secret of his own presidential ambitions is another matter. Mr Lebed would not be the kind of Prime Minister to bow to Mr Yeltsin's will and under his stewardship the President would be almost certain to fade into the background.

Duma leaders have indicated that they would accept Yegor Stroyev, the Chairman of the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, Yuri Luzhkov, Mayor of Moscow, or

Yevgeny Primakov, the Foreign Minister — and most analysts believe that Mr Yeltsin's choice is narrowed down to these three.

Mr Stroyev, 61, would be the least controversial of the three. He has built good relations with the regions and the Communists — while still remaining loyal to Mr Yeltsin. On the other hand, he appears to lack the dynamism needed to take Russia out of its present crisis.

Dynamism is certainly not lacking in Mr Luzhkov, who has overseen huge spending projects aimed at raising the profile of the Russian capital which have resulted in the creation of an island of prosperity far removed from the rest of the country. He is ambitious and yesterday took full advantage of the situation to harangue Mr Chernomyrdin's temporary government for its inertia over the past two weeks and called for emergency measures to deal with the financial crisis.

Mr Primakov, a former head of Russia's espionage service and veteran Soviet diplomat, has won respect from the Communists and other opposition groups for steering foreign policy away from the pro-Western stance of his predecessor, Andrei Kozyrev, while remaining stoically behind Mr Yeltsin. His standing was boosted yesterday by a declaration of support from Grigori Yavlinsky, leader of the liberal Yabloko faction. For Mr Yeltsin, he would appear to be the safest bet.

## ANALYSIS

must decide now whether he is willing to repeat the showdown of October 1993 and the accompanying bloodshed — or climb down. Most people in the Duma yesterday thought it likely he would take the latter course.

Aleksandr Korzhakov, the President's estranged former chief bodyguard and confidant, speaking in the lobby before yesterday's vote, said he had few doubts about the next stage. He said: "Whatever happens, Chernomyrdin is finished, even if Yeltsin is mad enough to put him up a third time."

At the same time, abandoning Mr Chernomyrdin at this late hour would be a severe humiliation for Mr Yeltsin and his first major defeat at the Duma's hands. His attempts to wheedle a compromise out of his opponents at negotiations before yesterday's Duma session looked like the last desperate act of a man clinging to office. And as the vote showed, it came to nothing.

Now it is a question of damage limitation. For Mr Yeltsin to salvage any political authority after dropping Mr Chernomyrdin, he will need to create the impression that the eventual Prime Minister is still his choice, rather than that of the Duma. One way of wrongfooting his opponents would be to put up a candidate who unlike Mr Chernomyrdin enjoys widespread popular support, but is still anathema to the Communists.



Pro-Communist demonstrators take their protest against President Yeltsin's latest abortive attempt to install Viktor Chernomyrdin as his Prime Minister to the steps of the State Duma in Moscow yesterday

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Burma detentions block opposition

**Rangoon:** Burma's main opposition party said that the military Government had detained 110 of its members in the past two days in an attempt to thwart its plan to convene a "people's parliament" this month. The National League for Democracy (NLD) of Aung San Suu Kyi said those detained included 50 members who won seats in Burma's last general election eight years ago — a poll that the party won by a landslide only to see the military ignore the result.

A spokesman for the Government confirmed that NLD members had been detained to prevent the party convening parliament, something that "would not be permitted by any government in the world". He added: "I don't know how many [have been detained] but what is happening is that the Government is taking appropriate action to maintain and safeguard national security."

He said that the opposition action would have derailed national reconciliation efforts as well as stability. "In order to prevent that, the Myanmar [Burmese] Government will take appropriate action if they convene parliament" (Reuters)

### Hun Sen orders foe's arrest

**Phnom Penh:** Cambodian authorities ordered the arrest of Sam Rainsy, a key opposition leader, for allegedly trying to provoke the killing of Hun Sen, the Prime Minister, and topple his Government. Mr Hun Sen said. Two grenades were thrown at Mr Hun Sen's house but no one was injured. Mr Rainsy, who had urged soldiers to turn their guns on their commanders and join the opposition, was held up at the United Nations office here where the American, French, Australian, Canadian and Singaporean ambassadors met for hours. Mr Rainsy and Prince Norodom Ranariddh have refused to accept the result of the July 26 poll, alleging that Mr Hun Sen's party had won through fraud. Mr Hun Sen has also threatened to arrest the Prince. (Reuters)

### Grenade injures 22 troops

**Amberg, Germany:** A hand-grenade injured 22 soldiers, five of them seriously, when it exploded during classroom training at a German army base. One of the soldiers was said to be in a critical condition after the accident at a tank unit's base here, about 40 miles east of Nuremberg in northern Bavaria. General Götz Gliemerth, the base commander, said it was unclear why a live grenade was used in training in contravention of army rules. He added that an inquiry would establish if "gross negligence" or some other reason was the cause of the explosion. The army, however, said that it was ruling out sabotage. (AP)

### Maltese victor picks team

**Valletta:** Eddie Fenech-Adami, Malta's pro-Europe Prime Minister, began consultations on forming a new Cabinet after his Nationalist Party won the elections held at the weekend. Party officials said Mr Fenech-Adami, 64, was expected to retain his key aides, including Guido de Marco and John Dalli, in the foreign and finance posts. Mr Marco served as Foreign Minister between 1989 and 1996. Critics have blamed Mr Dalli for the Nationalist Party's 1996 election defeat, a year after he introduced the unpopular value-added tax. (Reuters)

### Women 'sterilised by force'

**Rio de Janeiro:** Brazilian authorities launched a judicial and police investigation into reports that a congressman, in the backwater northern state of Bahia, funded and organised the forcible sterilisation of dozens of women from the dwindling tribe of Pataxo Indians. (Gabriella Garrini writes). Human rights groups and the Missionary Council of Indigenous Affairs reported they had found 61 women in Pataxo villages in southern Bahia who had suffered operations in which their reproductive organs had been mutilated.

### Malaysia grip tightened

**Kuala Lumpur:** Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, has tightened his grip on the economy by naming himself as Finance Minister and appointing Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman, a key aide, to be governor of the central bank. "The Prime Minister is in complete control now. Economic policy in the future will be down to one man. Only time will tell if his policies are the correct ones," the chief economist at a foreign bank in Singapore said. (Reuters)

### Protesters tear down gates

**Jakarta:** Hundreds of protesters tore down the gates of the Indonesian parliament and threw plastic bottles at police during a demonstration against President Habibie. Students want him to resign over his handling of the economy and put the former President Suharto on trial for corruption and repression. In a town in central Java, thousands of people burnt cars and looted nine Chinese-owned shops. (AP)

### Japan orders poison inquiry

**Tokyo:** Keizo Obuchi, the Japanese Prime Minister, ordered an investigation after a wave of poisonings that killed five people. Police detected an agent, used in synthetic detergents, in a drink of canned tea bought at a convenience store by a woman who fell ill after drinking it. They found a pinhole sealed with glue in the bottom of the can. (AFP)

## Rivals strut stage with gusto in parliamentary drama

BY ROBIN LODGE

### DUMA SKETCH

FINE hours are few and far between at the Russian Duma, a chamber that is far better known for its fighting, posturing and prevarication than for legislative achievements or weighty political debate.

Yesterday, however, it acted like a parliament, with the opposition and pro-government parties slopping it

out on the podium. But politics make strange bedfellows. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader, found himself singing very raucous the same tune as one of his most stalwart adversaries, Grigori Yavlinsky, who heads the pro-reform Yabloko faction. Both men were calling for the

rejection of Mr Chernomyrdin, who they regard as discredited.

Mr Yavlinsky appeared quite carried away. "We in Yabloko are ready to take responsibility for dealing with the situation," he declared, raising a number of eyebrows from those more accustomed to Yabloko carping from the sidelines.

Not to be outdone, Mr Zyuganov sprang into action, eyes blazing,

grasping the rostrum. Gooe was the sneering, mumbling drone, he spoke with passion and fluency, even sounding as though he meant it. "There can be no economic dictatorship without political dictatorship," he thundered. And he should know.

The only man not enjoying himself was Mr Chernomyrdin himself, who had started off the session pleading in a genteel, reasonable tone

for the Duma's backing. It soon became clear that this was not to be, and he sat scowling at the side of the hall.

Only when Aleksandr Shokhin, the charismatically challenged leader of the pro-Chernomyrdin Our Home is Russia, began a long-winded defence of the acting Prime Minister, did things revert to normal. The gallery emptied.

## 'Terror village' left in flames by Serbs

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN OSTROZUB

BELGRADE'S scorched earth policy was set to burn itself along another stretch of roadway in Kosovo yesterday, a day after Serb troops withdrew from an operation around Ponorac that left thousands more ethnic Albanians homeless.

Carts laden with women and children made a panicking exodus from Ostrozub, a town on the Malisevo-Orahovac road, about 30 miles southwest of the provincial capital, Pristina. The few Albanians lucky enough to have fuel in their vehicles raced past the carts northwards to a junction. There a few Kosovo Liberation Army fighters, who themselves seemed primed for flight, directed them to a mountain path leading eastwards to an area swollen with thousands of civilians camped along a river bank.

"Miličia, miličia," they shouted, pointing back in the direction from which they had fled. "Miličia" means police, but has become a buzzword for the coming flames.

Ostrozub was empty, a ghost town whose streets, dusted by recent shellfire, were occupied only by wandering dogs and abandoned livestock. Outside the southern end of town, two Serb anti-terrorist police, the grim augurs of misfortune, stopped us while on the slopes beside them soldiers moved forward. "Go back," they warned us, placated by a familiar routine of raised hands and fixed smiles. "There is no problem at the moment, but there is going to be a big problem soon. Terrorists are operating in this area."

Across the mountainside to the west, the Albanians of

Zatric, a village of 80 houses with a pre-destruction population of 100 people, were reflecting on what it means to have your home designated a "terrorist area" by the Serbs.

Last Thursday their village was one of a dozen in an arc around Ponorac to be hit by artillery. Pursued for two days by police and soldiers through a landscape of smoke and echoing gunfire, they were finally trapped in a ravine with a group of several hundred other people. Here their men were taken away for questioning by Serbs to an improvised detention centre in the school at Ponorac.

"The Serbs took us out one by one to question us in a separate room," said Lutfi Luta, 46, a detainee who was imprisoned there with his brother and two sons, the youngest of whom was 14 years old.

"They said, 'you are a terrorist, where is your gun? Do you want to die by a knife across your throat, by being shot, or hanged?' The question was the same for everybody. They beat some of the young men, and some did not come back after the questioning, among them my brother and one son. I don't know where they are."

Although the vast majority of the men were eventually freed, 60 have gone missing. When the people of Zatric returned to their village last night, they found it in ruins, every house either gutted by fire or destroyed by shelling. All of their tractors and carts had been torched, along with all their possessions. The Serbs had spiked their well with petrol and slain their livestock in the fields. They have nothing.



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**Baptist exhortation**

**Clinton to quit**

**Morality debate divides brothers**

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# Baptists exhort sinful Clinton to quit

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton, who is being undermined more effectively by so-called friends than by political opponents, has now been told to resign by the head of his Church. The leader of the Southern Baptist Convention said that Mr Clinton should quit for the good of the nation.

As Mr Clinton braced himself for the report on his conduct by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, which could be delivered to Congress as early as this week, Paige Patterson, President of America's Southern Baptist Convention, said he should resign and seek forgiveness for his personal transgressions "before he is

tion, and Mr Patterson's words will resound throughout the Bible Belt. With many politicians expected to take note of public opinion before deciding how to act on Mr Starr's report, Mr Patterson's sermon at First Baptist Church, Linden, North Carolina, on Sunday will have alarmed Mr Clinton.

The President returned to Washington from his trip to Russia and Ireland to be savaged by fellow Democrats. Parris Glendening, the Democratic Governor of Maryland, cancelled a fundraising event with the President and Senator Daniel Moynihan of New York said that Mr Clinton's lies and misleading of the American public over the Monica Lewinsky affair were grounds for impeachment. Yesterday the respected Democrat, Representative Jim Moran, said that before the scandal had broken he had expected his party to win 12 seats in November's House elections. Now he believed 20 seats would be lost.

Mr Starr worked yesterday while most of Washington was closed for the Labour Day holiday. But his office was not available to comment on a report in *The Washington Times* that his dossier would be delivered to Congress tomorrow. Other reports suggested it could be ready for viewing by the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee by the end of the week.

Tomorrow Mr Gingrich will meet Richard Gephardt, leader of the Democratic minority, to discuss the report. It will be handled, in particular, by the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee by the end of the week.

◀ If he'll repent, he can find what life is really all about ▶

# Morality debate divides brothers

BY IAN BRODIE

WILLIAM and Robert Bennett, brothers at the peak of their careers, have clashed roles in Washington's main preoccupation — President Clinton's sex life.

Robert's skills as a defence lawyer contributed mightily to the dismissal of the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit against Mr Clinton.

William's talents as a conservative essayist have produced a best-selling book that is a tirade against the President. It is called *The Death of Outrage: Bill Clinton and the Assault on American Ideals*.

The cultural and political divide between the brothers leaves one of them intent on saving Mr Clinton, the other on savaging him.

of "skulduggery, half-truths, stone-walling, breaches of ethics" and contempt for the law. Yet the brothers remain close, retaining a bond forged during an unsettled childhood in Brooklyn. Older brother Robert was often summoned as William's defender against bullies. He jokes: "I'm glad to have turned out as I did, and not as a Mafia hitman."

Both are beefy and outspoken with a sentimental streak. As lovers of good food, they meet regularly at The Palm, a Washington power-lunching spot.

Robert persuaded the Jones case judge to accept a definition that excluded oral sex and led to Mr Clinton denying relations with Monica Lewinsky, and pleaded in vain with Mr Clinton not to appear before the Lewinsky grand jury. As a result of the President's testimony, the Jones case could now be reopened.

# DeBakey, king of hearts, still going strong at 90

PAT SULLIVAN/AP



Dr Michael DeBakey, the pioneer American heart surgeon, who still manages to perform two or three operations a week and says his hands remain just as steady today as they have ever been

Ian Brodie talks to the man whose skills helped to save Yeltsin's life two years ago

Michael DeBakey, the father of modern heart surgery, was 90 yesterday. A man of inexhaustible energy, he was up as usual at five, worked all day and did not go to bed before eleven. Amazingly, he still performs two or three operations a week, without a trace of age tremble in his hands. "They're just as steady as they've ever been," he said.

"I don't have any arthritis and my fingers move beautifully." A recent observer who watched him perform a quadruple bypass said he moved like a dancer in a *pas de deux*, anticipating his surgical partner's every move with scalpels, scissors and forceps.

Dr DeBakey successfully completed the first such operation in 1964, using a leg vein to reroute blood around a blocked coronary artery. In his prolific career he has performed some 65,000 heart and blood vessel operations. He said: "The figure is approximate because I don't have records of all the operations I did more than 50 years ago." The most in one day was 17. "That wasn't a normal day, but people were coming to me from all over the world and I couldn't put them off."

His base is Baylor College of Medicine in Houston where, from 1948, he has been president, chancellor and now chancellor emeritus. Perhaps his proudest achievement has been the training of more than 1,000 international surgeons.

Two years ago Dr DeBakey was summoned to Moscow as a consultant for the team performing a quintuple bypass on President Yeltsin. Mr Yeltsin called him a "magician of the heart". Now he has just returned from advising Azerbaijan about its new heart hospital. Later this month, meetings and lectures will take him to five countries and 12 cities in 12 days.

Nearly 6ft tall, he weighs just 11st 6lb and attributes his good health to remaining active and a life of moderation. "I don't eat a great deal and I'm often too busy for lunch. I

eat a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, chicken and seafood, but not red meat only occasionally. I don't imbibe any alcohol. A glass of wine with dinner is probably all right. Some scientists say it may even be useful, but I don't know. Certainly excessive drinking can be bad for the heart muscle."

In striving for a healthy heart, he says, no one can change their genes, but they can reduce high blood pressure and cholesterol, stop smoking, take moderate exercise and watch their weight. He thinks the best exercise for those over 65 is to walk two miles a day. His exercise comes from striding around his hospital and in walking up six flights to his office.

The son of Lebanese immigrants, he was taught to sew by his mother before he was five. It is a skill he still uses in operations. During the Second World War he developed the first mobile army surgical hospitals, made familiar by Hollywood as *M\*A\*S\*H*. He invented the first artificial artery, the first treatment for strokes by removing fatty blockages from neck arteries, and the first graft replacement for the aortic artery. He performed early heart transplants but stopped until convinced that new drugs prevented organ rejection. He is now working on an implantable heart pump.

Dr DeBakey's first wife died of a heart attack. He met his second, a German, at a party at Frank Sinatra's house. He is a man of big ego, impatient with sloppiness and time-wasting. To the annoyance of some, he has always courted publicity. His official biography calls him the "Texas Tornado" of medicine.

Thirty years ago he hurried me down a corridor at Baylor into an observation room where I stared through a window into the open chest and beating heart of his next patient. Someone had tucked a playing card into the window frame. It was the king of hearts.

# Iranian frontier troops cut off Taleban opium route and cash

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE flow of illegal drugs to Britain and the rest of Europe could be disrupted by Iran's military build-up along its border with Afghanistan, diplomats said yesterday. This was seen as the one positive development from the feud between the two countries. About 80 per cent of the heroin sold in Britain comes from Afghanistan.

The presence of 70,000 Iranian troops has helped to seal the 625-mile border, causing the price of opium in Iran to double since it began war games last week aimed at intimidating the Taleban militia that controls most of Afghanistan. Iranian leaders said they have no plans to invade, but suggested they would keep a sizeable force in the area.

The military presence appears in part designed to alleviate the pressure on the Iranian-backed Afghan opposition by stretching Taleban forces. The Taleban was reported to have rushed hundreds of fresh troops to the border region, while in the

east of the country it lost a strategic hilltop post north of the capital, Kabul, to forces of Ahmed Shah Masood, the opposition's key commander.

Less directly, Iran's muscle-flexing could harm Taleban finances if there is a prolonged disruption to heroin exports from Afghanistan while traffickers develop alternative routes. Tehran has accused the Taleban of boosting the production of illegal drugs to fund its military operations.

President Khatami recently called on the international community to establish a *cordons sanitaire* around Afghanistan to cut off drug routes.

Drug abuse is of mounting concern in Iran, where 65 per cent of the country's 70 million population are aged under 25. Iranian officials say there are 500,000 addicts, 150,000 of them on heroin. Local media put the figure at one million and say addicts can sustain a habit for £3 a day.

The war against drugs represents a shared point of interest between Iran and Europe, which has praised Tehran's efforts at cracking down on traffickers. Britain is offering financial aid. It is the main bilateral donor to the United Nations Drug Control Programme in Iran, having contributed more than £2 million over the past three years.

Iran's fight against drug trafficking from Afghanistan and Pakistan began long before the Taleban came to power and it has paid a heavy price. Nearly 2,500 Iranian soldiers and police have died over the past 15 years in daily battles with smugglers so well organised and armed they have managed to shoot down police helicopters.

Despite popular pressure in Iran to punish the Taleban, which is thought to have killed ten Iranian diplomats captured last month, analysts said last night Tehran was unlikely to become directly involved in a country that proved such a quagmire for Soviet forces in the 1980s.



Beside rocket launchers mounted on trucks, Iranian troops stand vigil on the Afghan border this week

# Squabbling dashes Congo peace hopes

FROM JAN RAATH AT VICTORIA FALLS

A CONFERENCE of seven African heads of state intended to seek a resolution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo yesterday turned into a deeply fractious affair that appeared to promise more fighting.

The meeting was arranged at the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Durban last week, with the coozing of Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It was hoped a ceasefire

agreement could be secured by all parties in the war and a withdrawal of the forces of the five foreign governments involved.

But as the meeting progressed it became clear that Mr Annan's overtures for peace had failed and the positions of President Kabila and his allies from Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia, against those of the rebel Tutsi coalition and its supporters, Uganda and Rwanda, had hardened considerably.

The summit was the first sign of hope for a settlement in a conflict that has aroused concern that it may spread

beyond the borders of Congo. The Zimbabwean position was apparently stated in the state-controlled *Herald* newspaper: the summit was "to discuss the terms of surrender for the invading forces and how their repatriation can be monitored".

The rebels' stance was directly contrary. "There will be no ceasefire before political negotiations (over the future of Congo) and no ceasefire before troops from Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia have gone," said Arthur Zahida Ngoma, the rebel coalition's vice-president.

# ALAN CLARK FORUM



Alan Clark, the Tory MP, historian and celebrated diarist, will be speaking on his new book, *The Tories: Conservatives and the Nation State 1922-1997* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20) at a Times/Dillons Forum on Wednesday, September 16, 1998. The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and there will be an opportunity to put questions to the former Minister. The forum, the 50th in the *Times/Dillons Forum* series, will take place at 7.30pm at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. The admission price of £10 (concessions £7.50 for students, pensioners and the unemployed on production of valid I.D.) includes a reduction of £2 on copies of *The Tories*.

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WORLD IN BRIEF a detention opposition... all PAGES

RICHARD BRANSON: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

# If I was going to stop BA's 'dirty



In the second extract from his autobiography, **Richard Branson** tells of his search for evidence in his fight against British Airways, and his outraged reaction to the questions of talk show host Clive Anderson



True grit: "I felt as though I had just witnessed a crime, and it was doubly strange knowing that I was the victim"

**K**uwait had just been invaded by Iraq and the world was in a tail-spin. The price of aviation fuel had rocketed from 75 cents a gallon to \$1.50. In the first week after the invasion, Virgin Atlantic received 3,000 cancellations. We had a £25 million overdraft facility with the bank and were well on our way to £50 million. I wondered how far we could go before the bank asked us to do something about it.

**D**ICT ON VIRGIN stood out in the sheaf of press cuttings I looked through. The journalist was Frank Kane, who wrote for *The Sunday Telegraph*. Lord King also happened to be a non-executive director of the paper.

I realised that I was a clearly defined target. It was a frightening sensation. I was due to do a live television interview with Clive Anderson, the talk show host. I walked on to the set but could hardly hear what Anderson was saying. He jabbered away about Virgin Atlantic as if it was fair play to pull it to pieces. It's so easy to pull something to pieces, I thought; it's so much more difficult to build it up.

I looked at his balding head, which had been powdered so that it wouldn't shine through his remaining hair. No, I thought, you can take as much piss out of me as you like, but I've worked flat out for 20 years to build up one of the biggest private companies in the country and the Virgin brand name, and now I've got BA trying to put me out of business and chuck all my staff out on to the street. Unless I can do something pretty extraordinary in the very near future, I'm going to go bust. And now I'm sitting here in front of a witty journalist who feels that he can ridicule me for trying to run a good airline.

Chris Hutchins came to see me on Sunday, October 27, 1991, and I sensed that he was caught in a dilemma. He was due to have lunch with Brian Basham. I wanted him to go with a hidden microphone to record whatever was said.

After several more agonising minutes of hiss and crackle I heard, Chris asking where the loo was and being directed to one near the front door. The clearest part of the recording was hearing Chris unzip his flies and have a long, substantial pee. Then it cut off. This was hardly the tape that was going to break British Airways.

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To celebrate the *Monet in the 20th Century* exhibition, the Royal Academy of Arts and city-break specialists City Escapades, have joined forces to offer a *Times* reader the chance to win a holiday for two in Boston, USA, where they can see *Monet in the 20th Century* before Christmas.

The prize consists of three nights' bed and breakfast for two people at the distinctive Le Meriden hotel. Flights courtesy of British Airways.

**HOW TO ENTER**

Readers who book *Monet* tickets before September 26 will be entered into a prize draw to win the Boston trip. If you do not wish to go to the exhibition, enter by sending your name and address on a postcard to: *The Times/Monet in the 20th Century*, PO Box 5078, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7GB.

For details of autumn breaks to 50 cities including Boston, call 0181 563 8959.

The holiday must be taken between October 1 and December 15 1998. The holiday is subject to availability and is non-transferable. The holiday is based on two people sharing a twin/double room and does not include meals, apart from breakfast, transfers or holiday insurance.

**CITY Escapades**

**MONET IN THE 20TH CENTURY**

23 January - 10 April 1999

Today *The Times* and the Royal Academy of Arts offer readers the first 50,000 tickets for *Monet in the 20th Century*, sponsored by Ernst & Young, which is on show at the RA, Piccadilly, London W1, from January 23.

Booking is open exclusively to *Times* readers until September 14. You can see the exhibition between January 23 and February 22, 1999. *Monet in the 20th Century* brings together 80 outstanding paintings by the founder of Impressionism. Highlights include dazzling scenes of Monet's garden at Giverny, luminous views of London and Venice and seven of his monumental water lily panels, one of which has never been seen in public before.

The Royal Academy is adopting a system of timed entry to help to avoid queues and overcrowding in the galleries. \*See *Painting of the Day*, page 20.

**HOW TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS**

The gallery is open from 9am to 6pm Sunday to Thursday and from 9am to 10pm on Friday and Saturday. Tickets cost: adults £9; concessions £6; 12-18 years £3; 8-11 years £1.50, plus a booking fee of £1.80 per person for up to five tickets and £1.40 per person for bookings of six or more tickets. Call the credit card hotline, below, with details of the date and time of day between January 23-February 22 you would like to visit the exhibition. Lines open daily 8am-10pm until September 26.

**HOTLINE: 0870 842 2200**

**CHANGING TIMES**

## Risking all on a rescue mission

I was watching the news when I saw the extraordinary footage of Saddam Hussein surrounded by the British nationals who had been detained in Baghdad. The reporters were expecting that the hostages would be used as "human shields" and would be incarcerated inside the prime Allied targets.

I had no idea how I would set about helping to bring these hostages home but I knew that Virgin Atlantic had an aircraft and that, if we could somehow obtain permission to fly into Baghdad, we would be able to pick up any hostages whom Saddam agreed to release.

I began talking to the Foreign Office. I tried to get the medical details of those people stuck in Baghdad so that we could "prove" they were ill. I then called around other foreign embassies to alert them that there might be a rescue flight going into Baghdad and that they should try to get people out of it by showing "proof" that they were ill.

Then we got a response from Saddam. He promised us that he would release the women and children and the sick hostages, but said he wanted someone of stature to be flown in to ask him publicly to do so. I telephoned Edward Heath and asked him whether he would do so. He agreed. The next day we flew Heath out to Amman, the Jordanian capital, where King Hussein arranged for him to go to Baghdad.

A day later King Hussein phoned me: "I have good news for you, sir," he said. He was impeccably polite and always addressed people as "sir" or "madam", as did his children. "You can set off for Baghdad. I have Saddam's word that you will be safe."

Although I knew I was risking everything on this flight, I also knew by now that there was no backing out.

By flying into Baghdad and rescuing the hostages, Virgin had again usurped British Airways' traditional role. At the time I had no idea that the Virgin flight into Baghdad would annoy Lord King so much. I was trying to help out — I had an aircraft at my disposal and I could act quickly.

Although this plane was one of just four planes that Virgin Atlantic operated, suddenly we looked like a much larger airline. We had successfully negotiated with Saddam; we had carried in medical supplies; and we had brought back the hostages. I found out only later that Lord King's indignant reaction was the start of an entire campaign by British Airways to try to put Virgin Atlantic out of business.

Saddam Hussein: hostages

Baghdad. I have Saddam's word that you will be safe."

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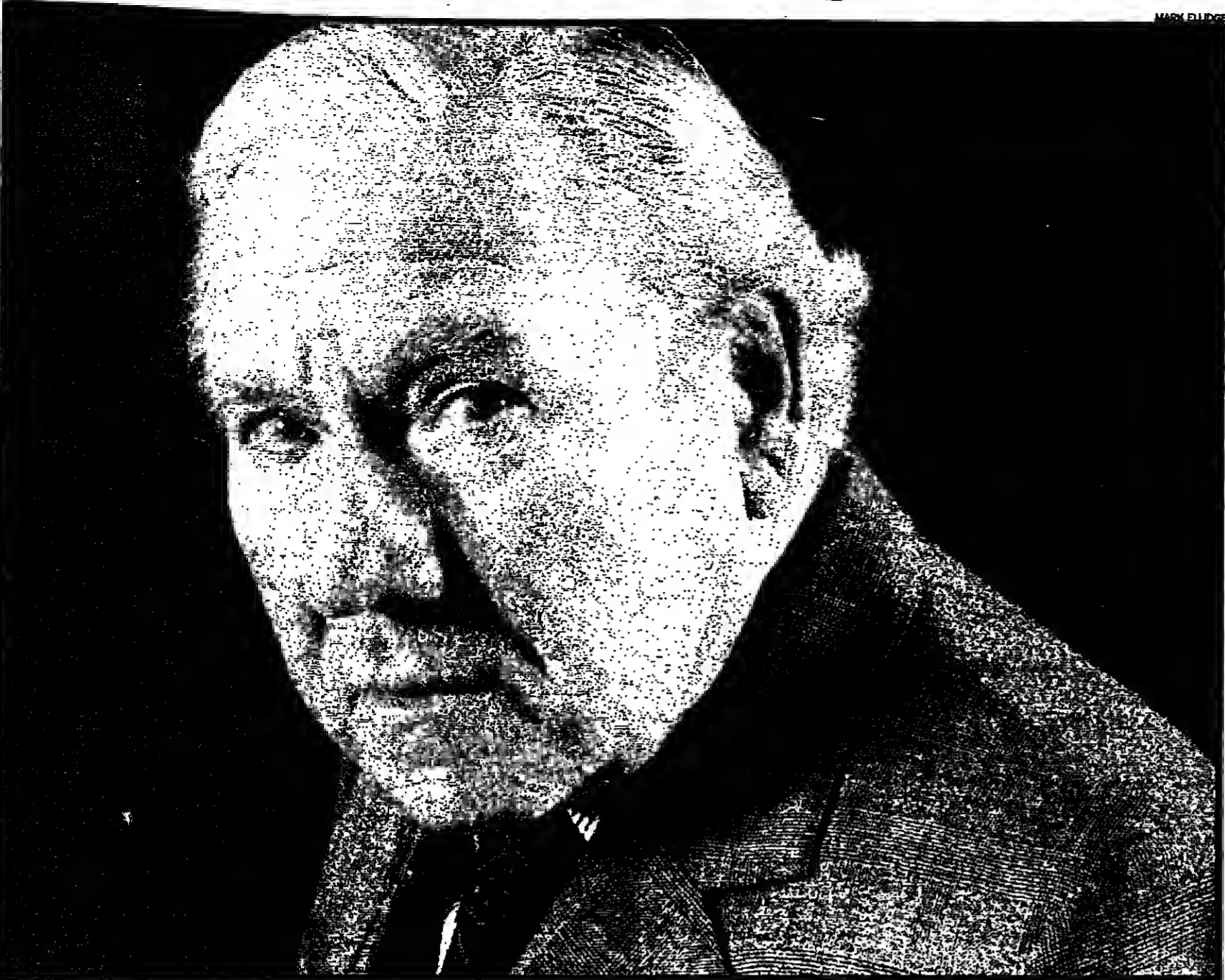
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RICHARD BRANSON: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

# tricks' campaign, I needed proof



Branson feared that an accusation of financial weakness from someone as lofty and authoritative as Lord King [above] could rapidly become a self-fulfilling prophecy

the Government's decision to allow Virgin to fly to Tokyo, Basham's voice became warmly persuasive: "I think it's scandalous, for two reasons. First of all, I think he runs a dicky business, just dicky. Bits of it are good, but I think it's dicky."

"I think that for the Government to give these routes, which are really big assets, to a businessman is bad news, scandalous. To take those routes away from a business which has been privatised, where you've got lots and lots of shareholders, and take it away from all those private shareholders and give it to somebody who's got a privately run business, is, I think, doubly scandalous."

Basham then smoothly changed tack to discuss the Virgin management and the extraordinary behaviour of Mike Bari, who had left BA to work for Virgin and then returned to BA after two days.

Basham said: "He worked for one week and resigned. I took him out for dinner and asked what happened. He said: 'Well, actually, the business is appallingly run. He said one day, without doubt, an aircraft is going to fall out of the sky — because aircraft always fall out of the sky, you know. Must happen. If an inquiry takes place, someone is going to swing because the procedures and the way the business is run are appalling.'"

On the tape, Basham and Hutchins were preparing to leave. The crackling increased as Hutchins stood up and smoothed down his clothes. "I have a couple of concerns," Basham told him. "First of all, I don't want to be involved in this at all. Secondly, I mustn't have BA involved. I mean, all the good I might have done by saying 'Here is Virgin, good and bad' would be entirely wiped out if it looked as though BA was in any way running some sort of campaign against Virgin — which they're not. All right?"

"It's not going to get you in trouble with Lord King, is it, if we rubbish Branson?" Chris asked.

"No," Basham said. "If you blow Branson out, it doesn't make any difference to me as long as neither BA nor I are associated with it."

"Well, I'm afraid that both you and BA are going to be very associated with it," I said, wondering what to do with the tape. I felt as though I had just witnessed a

crime and it was doubly strange knowing I was the victim. I asked the engineers to copy it and we immediately biked a copy round to our lawyer.

Things moved very quickly that week. The first call I received on Tuesday was from Syd Pennington at Virgin Atlantic, who had been reading the Virgin upper-class visitors' book.

"There's an entry here which reads 'You obviously have BA worried! I received a call from BA asking why I booked on a Virgin Atlantic flight today rather than BA. Good job! Good luck!'"

"Who wrote that?"

"Marcia Borne from Procter & Gamble, New York."

I could hardly wait to call Marcia Borne. She told me that she normally flew BA but that this time she had decided to come back with Virgin to try it out. BA had called to ask why she had changed her return flight to Virgin.

"The guy from BA said 'If you change your mind, let us know and we can change your ticket'. I started wondering how my itinerary was such public knowledge. I didn't know that there was a big computer in the sky which told everybody else where I was going to be."

I thanked her for her help. British Airways was obviously gaining access to computer information that should have been off-bounds. It was confirmed by the next day's post: out of the blue Peter Fleming from BA wrote a second letter in which he detailed a number of things that the airline had done to squeeze Virgin out of the picture.

The list included deliberately applying for slots to Japan and Australia that BA didn't need for the sole purpose of stopping Virgin getting them; a special sales force getting business in the Gatwick area and offering low fares from Gatwick to squeeze yields for all airlines there (while continuing to operate a high-fare monopoly from Heathrow); refusing to process bookings for passengers who had flown from Japan to Gatwick by Virgin and then wanted to switch to BA, so that they would have to fly BA all the way; and accessing our booking information by delving into the computer reservations system.

While the journalists at *Today* were still wondering what to do with the Brian

Basham tape recording, we received a call from *The Sunday Times*. Nick Rufford, who worked on the paper's *Insight* team, was planning an analysis of the Virgin empire and had set up a meeting with Brian Basham to hear BA's perspective on Virgin. Basham told him some of the things that he had told Chris Hutchins but also mentioned a rumour within BA that Virgin was having to pay for its fuel in cash because of a low credit rating.

This was not only rubbish, but it was exactly the sort of rumour that would cause most damage to Virgin and probably lead to Shell demanding cash for fuel, which represented more than 20 per cent of our costs. Without the cashflow credit that comes from passengers paying for their tickets up front, and Virgin paying for the fuel a month later, we'd have had to take out a further loan, which no bank would countenance.

"Why don't you turn the tables on British Airways?" I suggested, "and write about their dirty tricks? That's the real story."

"I could try that," Rufford said. "What other evidence do you have?"

By the time I'd finished with Rufford I sensed that he might see it from our point of view. He promised to check the story with Shell and then call Basham. A few hours later he called me back.

"I checked with Shell and they told me that Virgin has normal credit terms, so I called up Basham and told him that I was turning the story on its head. We're now running a story about British Airways' campaign to smear Virgin, and mentioning him."

"Was he pleased?"

"He was on a car phone. I think he must have gone through a tunnel," Rufford said diplomatically.

At that moment I had a gut feeling that the tide was turning in our favour.

Edited extract from *Losing My Virginity: The Autobiography by Richard Branson*, to be published by Virgin Publishing on September 17 at £20. Times readers can buy it for £19 by calling The Times Bookshop, 0990 134459. Copyright Richard Branson 1998



**'BA have admitted that you are totally right. You've cleared your name.' A legal action — and the highest uncontested libel payment in British legal history**

## Flying tricycle and a brush with death

In 1977, I was approached by a man called Richard Ellis who claimed to have made a startling invention that he called a "pterodactyl flying machine". He sent me a photograph showing a man on a tricycle soaring over the treetops beneath two large wings. Ellis wanted me to try the machine and then buy the licence to distribute it.

It looked like a cross between a Leonardo da Vinci and a Heath Robinson invention. The tricycle had a small outboard engine with rotors suspended above the pilot's head. Ellis told me that if I pedalled like mad along the road or an airstrip, the engine would cut in and power me along until I took off. The engine would then power the rotors, which would keep me airborne.

I was rather flattered that he had chosen me to be the second person to fly this machine. "It'll take a couple of weekends to get the hang of it," he said. "So you won't take off this time."

He joined the engine to some cable with a rubber band, which he gave to me to put in my mouth. "When the engine is going well and you are bowling along the runway, bite on this and it will cut the engine."

Joan and a few friends stood at the end of the runway of the local airfield to get a good view. I was strapped into the harness and put the rubber band in my mouth. It seemed as if it would be a lot of fun.

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Anderson: Branson threw a glass of water over his head

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# Should I stay or should I go?

An affair may not mean the end of a marriage, although being honest might, says a leading psychiatrist, who has written a book on the subject. Interview by Tina Gaudoin

For a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Peter Kramer certainly has a swanky office. Set on the Rhode Island campus of Brown University where Kramer teaches and practises, the clapboard grey house would look more at home perched on the celebrity-littered beaches of Martha's Vineyard than in a grimy university township. But then Kramer is something of a celebrity in the United States.

The first author to embrace and legitimise the culture of Prozac (his book, *Listening to Prozac*, sat heroically on *The New York Times* best-seller list throughout the summer of 1993), he undoubtedly tapped the vein of a nation eager for psychological help. "I think in a sense I was the voice of the *Zeitgeist*," he says with a satisfied grin. The question for Kramer now is whether his new book, *Should You Leave?*, an analytical insight into what makes relationships work

can do the same. With a rocketing divorce rate on both sides of the Atlantic, the need for a book that discusses the plausibility of giving effective advice to troubled couples has never been greater. But those scratching up the book in feverish anticipation of gathering definitive answers to their problems will be disappointed. Kramer, whose waiting room is littered with Freudian tomes, has, by his own admission,

set out to write a literary antidote to the *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* school of self-help books.

The boyish late thirtysomething son of German-Jewish immigrants takes himself and his work exceptionally seriously. He also possesses an extraordinary degree of self-confidence, having already asked me over the telephone: "What is the most interesting thing you're going to do here aside from interviewing me?" Perhaps this is what good therapy and a bestseller does for you. He tells me that his first book, *Moments of Engagement*, "which got only rave reviews", sold a disappointing number of copies, and goes on to concede that *Should You Leave?*, which has garnered mainly good reviews so far, has been received less hysterically than *Listening to Prozac*.

The reason for this could be that *Should You Leave?* is not likely to provide any answers. Instead, what it offers is an entertaining, somewhat ambiguous, fictional account of varying troubled relationships and ways to "think around them" —

as propounded by various eminent thinkers and therapists over the past 50 years.

Kramer is equally redempt about definitively answering that particular question. "There are of course certain cases when you must leave." Among them, he numbers physical and emotional abuse and the curious label of possession — "when one personality is swallowed up by another". But, in general, he believes in staying "because it's too easy emotionally for people to leave. Life is complicated and the book is designed to illustrate that life and relationships are complex. I want the reader to be moved to using their own skills to figure out the problem, rather than offering specific solutions or outcomes," he says, enthusiastically.

Cynics might call this approach "waffly shrink-speak". Kramer's own interview technique, which involves "taking a moment" before an-

swering and running his hand through his dark wedge cut as he speaks, is in danger of bearing that out. His language is that of one firmly immersed in theologisation and his conversation is peppered with high-brow references — "I think it was Kierkegaard who said" — tempered by a self-deprecating sense of humour.

He is not forthcoming with his own personal details, regarding me suspiciously when set out to write a literary antidote to the *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* school of self-help books. I ask whether he and his wife ("married once with three children") have been in counselling. "We didn't do joint counselling and I didn't feel the need to experience Prozac to write my other book either," he says, somewhat sniffily.

I put it to Kramer that the title of his new book is a good commercial bet, given that at one time or another almost every man or woman in the Western world in a long-term relationship will have considered leaving. He dissembles: "I like to pick topics that are compelling — we live in a culture that doesn't reward attachment." The future of the family worries Kramer. "The divorce rate is almost as much as a culture can bear. If the family is going to remain a primary institution then we are going to have to consider the way we celebrate individualism and autonomy." The self-help culture spawned by the "gotta have it" Eighties and the "quick-fix" Nineties is to blame, he says. "We have celebrated the self to such an extent that we now live in a society which is tough on people who value attachment in any form." We have

reached the stage wherein leaving a marriage is considered, in many cases, preferable to staying, he believes. Kramer opines that a therapist's job is to "be honest, but that honesty involves selecting what part of the truth the patient wants to hear". For some of us, the idea that we are not paying to hear objective advice but the advice a therapist thinks we can bear, will come as a shock. He also states that he doesn't endorse honesty at all times between couples. "What passes for honesty is often aggression. When someone comes into my room and says 'I'm glad to be able to say what's on my mind', I think 'look out, this is a good place to take a swat at your partner'."



"The divorce rate is almost as much as a culture can bear. We have reached a stage wherein leaving a marriage is considered, in many cases, preferable to staying," Kramer says

Neither does he damn affairs, pointing out that the outcome of an affair is not generally to end a marriage. He does, however, take a dim view of anyone with a less than mature view of therapy: when I ask if he ever encounters patients he would class as "relationship no-hopers", he winces and places both hands firmly on his knees as if to prevent a violent response. "This is a serious business," he says, looking reverentially around his office. "and this place has a sacred quality, important things happen here."

Ironically, it is the echoes of *Listening to Prozac* within *Should You Leave?* that have attracted most attention in America. Kramer's contention, that the treatment of minor depression can radically improve personality and ability, relates directly to his views on relationships because he believes that minor depression often causes marital break-ups, rather than marital break-ups causing depression. "I think it received so much attention because it showed that it is possible to fix a marriage if minor depression is causing someone to want to leave a formerly satisfying relationship. These days, with psychotherapy and medication, we have tools that can mend things that are not mental illness."

So there is hope for marriage in the next millennium? Kramer says couples who are emotionally or morally committed to a marriage are in

the minority. "I think today people do have wandering eyes; many of us now think we are entitled to something better." With so many public figures unable to sustain their relationships is there any hope for improvement in the divorce rate? For Kramer, a very public divorce is at best "a great leveller. Celebrities have emotional problems, just the same as you or I."

Describing himself as "left of liberal", he is unable to contain his distaste for President Clinton. "He is a weak character — the nation made a mistake." But did Hillary make one, too, and, more to the point, should she stay or go?

"My best guess is that Hillary is involved in a marriage of state — be-

ing a celebrity is all-powerful. What is she going to do? Go back to Arkansas and be a corporate lawyer? I don't think so."

In terms of high-profile marital disasters, Kramer equates the Clintons and the Waleses. "This is the perfect example of how much you can know about two couples and how little you can know about their relationships," he says. The difference is that had the late Princess visited him for advice he hopes that he would have had the wisdom to say: "You really ought to bring your husband in with you next time."

Should *You Leave?* will be published by Gollancz on Thursday at £16.99



Kramer: family under threat

## March of the superlice

Ask people to recall their schooldays and many will remember the stogy dinners, the prim gym teacher and the playground bully. If they are honest, they will also remember the burning shame of the nit parade: the belief that head lice prefer clean heads counted for nothing when it came to playground taunts. Head lice continue to torment people today and, as a documentary will claim tonight, experts are no closer to conquering the scourge. The lice appear to be at least partially resistant to the chemical remedies in widespread use. Desperate parents repeatedly treat their children with the shampoos, which contain high levels of insecticides. In frustration, parents then try other products, unaware that the new treatment sometimes contains the same active ingredient as the old, ineffective one. The result, say critics, is a lucrative market in useless products and an upsurge in the head lice population.

"My concern is that none of the treatments is completely effective," says Dr Nigel Hill, medical entomologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. "But the labels often claim the product to be 100 per cent successful. Manufacturers are often scathing of such accusations and blame parents for not using the products properly. But they know lice have some resistance. The problem is that it takes a couple of years for lice to become resistant to a treatment, and another 20 years before the manufacturers develop a new one." Another entomologist agrees that manufacturers of head lice remedies must shoulder some blame, but so too must parents. "The first thing to say is that shampoos never work."

Dr John Maunders, director of the Medical Entomology Centre in Cambridge, which sometimes provides scientific advice to companies that manufacture headlice remedies as well as to health authorities. "They do not sit on the head for long enough. There are lotions which one can apply for several hours, which are effective in some cases. In others, the insects have become resistant to the active ingredient. But the effectiveness of any remedy depends on its concentration and the length of time it is on

the scalp. People must get the dose right so they can get rid of the lice once and for all."

Dr Maunders believes doctors and nurses are not trained how to deal with head lice, and so cannot pass accurate information on to parents. "There are so many myths surrounding this topic," he says with a sigh. "Children are just as likely to get head lice from their granny as off their classmates."

Dr Hill suggests that old-fashioned "bug-busting" with a metal comb might be the best strategy. Four well-timed

combing sessions could, he says, do the trick.

But Dr Maunders rejects this approach: "It's going back to the Middle Ages. It would take four weeks of lengthy combing every day to work."

ANJANA AHUJA

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VISUAL ART  
Domestic bliss with a Dutch master  
PAGE 20

# THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE  
Tiel's Dancing at Lughnasa in the West End  
PAGE 21



## Something Freudian in the forest

London's opera houses may be far from out of the woods, but English National Opera is now in a stronger position than it has been for years. Saturday's opening of the season marked the official start of the new Nicholas Payne-Paul Daniel regime, a formidable artistic and administrative team as their track record at Opera North shows.



OPERA  
yet this take on the tragic story of a water-nymph's awakening makes the connection. Though Stefanos Lazaridis's designs may have lost some of their freshness, his set remains a powerful metaphor for the whole piece. The giant doll's-house representation of a Victorian nursery, filled with mechanical toys that come to disturbing life and the Perspex walls that separate the mute Rusalka from "reality", is both beautiful and impressive for the telling precision of its imagery. The nightmarish aspect of the tale is caught brilliantly in the surreal ballet of Act II (choreography revived here by Nicola Bowler).

wide-eyed, vulnerable heroine shows that she is an affecting actress too. Catherine Savory is strong as the witch Jezibaba, all the more frightening for her exaggerated aloofness. Robert Brubaker's Prince displays dark tenor tone but tends to force. John Connell is an appropriately forlorn Water Spirit, and Janice Cairns returns to the Coliseum as the ambivalent Foreign Princess. There are also lively contributions from Dominic Natoli (Gamekeeper) and Nerys Jones (Kitchen Boy). Denise Mutholland, Mary Nelson and Emer McGilloy make excellent ENO debuts as the trio of Rhinemaiden-like Wood Nymphs. Alas, it is the Wagnerian undertones that the conductor, Richard Hickox, stresses. His steamrolling approach takes little account of the Slavonic element or the music's magical textures, and he doesn't "breathe" with the singers. But lapses in ensemble can be sorted out, and this 15-year-old staging will not keep coming back. Catch it now.

JOHN ALLISON



Dream team at ENO: Susan Patterson swinging into the role of Rusalka, with John Connell as the Water Spirit, in David Pountney's classic staging

## Oops, wrong century

THERE has been no shortage of Handel performances recently, and the annual early music festival at the South Bank, this year titled *Heavenly Harmony*, followed the tradition, kicking off with a semi-staged production of *Orlando* by the Early Opera Company. With singers at early stages of their careers, and a small company of instrumentalists, the group is aptly named, but failed to match up to its claims to "work that is historically informed and theatrically challenging".



Orlando  
Queen Elizabeth Hall  
promising circumstances: unfortunately this was not one of them. Critics have a tendency on such occasions to write "very-good-considering" reviews, and there is no doubt that we heard singers of potential and a decent, if less-than-exhilarating, performance. However, at least one criticism must be made if the EOC is to live up to its aims, and that concerns the singing. The present-day lack of castrati makes things difficult, and Louise Mott in the title role struggled manfully with the low tessitura. But that is not the point I wish to make here, which is that there was

simply no stylistic consistency among the soloists and few, if any, signs of stylistic awareness, with the possible exception of Matthew Hargreaves as the magician, Zoroastro. It seems perverse to go to the trouble of securing a period instrument band, only to have the singers adopt an approach more suited to Puccini. True, we still know relatively little about the singing style of Handel's day but the all-pervasive vibrato, seamless phrasing and general lack of any attempt at idiomatic ornamentation suggested that these singers had not been sufficiently prepared. Geraldine McGreevy (Angelica) has a creamy voice and a polished technique, but she never once phrased in a baroque manner and it was difficult to make out a word of her

Italian. The same was true of Sally Bruce-Payne's Medora, despite another fine, if darkened, tone, while Anna-Clare Monk (Dorinda) was chirpy or sweetly expressive as required. Christian Curnyn directed from the harpsichord, but did little to inject any real vitality or pace into the proceedings, setting tempos that were often on the slow side. Those who like to wallow in their Handel will have enjoyed this much more than I did.

TESS KNIGHTON

## Breathtaking Tchaikovsky

Without, I'm sure, any prior consultation, America and Europe joined in celebrating Richard Strauss and Alban Berg at the start of the weekend's Proms. Both the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the European Union Youth Orchestra chose early Berg; and as one had begun, so the other ended its programme with Strauss.

The Chicago Symphony and Daniel Barenboim sprang into their second Prom with their huge forces tripping a remarkably light fantastic in Strauss's *Vill Eugene*, as laconic and faux-naïf by turns as the legendary joker himself.

And then, as the smiles faded but the tension remained, Berg's *Three Pieces for Orchestra*, written in 1914, took up their sour-sweet Prelude, Round Dance and March. Here Barenboim recreated Berg's musical emblem of a world poised on the edge of chaos and controlled by a fierce yet fragile order. With the Chicago Symphony's horns as sentient as its violas, and with percussion and strings equally skilled in the merging and focusing of detail, this performance distilled the menace and pathos at the very heart of Berg's music.

But the evening's outstanding achievement was Barenboim's vision of Tchaikovsky's *Sixth Symphony*. Not a phrase was left unturned, not a bar of orchestration taken for granted. From the opening, in which the first four phrases became a succession of breaths in one long, harmonically directed sigh, through to the last numb shudder, this was a performance rich in new revelations of the music's sense and the composer's sensibility. And, as the grand finale of the orchestra's London visit, it drew playing the like of which has scarcely been matched in this entire Proms season.

It was certainly a hard act for the EYO and Vladimir Ashkenazy to follow. But they had the Swedish soprano Hillevi Martinpelto in tow for Berg's *Seven Early Songs*, and Strauss's blockbuster to offer in the *Alpine Symphony*.

Their *Alpine Symphony* showed a keen eye for detail. With Ashkenazy in charge, it was the step by step progress of the journey, rather than the panoramas which dominated. But, with the skill of individual players very much to the fore, and the acoustic landscape of the Albert Hall to direct the forest horrors and the bovine migrations, the audience seemed well pleased.

HILARY FINCH

## Daintily, demurely decadent

Bloody brawls, libidinous excess and mayhem. It could be the Brits in Ibiza today; in fact, it's the royal court in late 17th-century Madrid. One of the key characters, celebrated in the first of the Saturday evening concerts in Philip Pickett's *Heavenly Harmony* series, was the virtuosic singer, guitarist and composer José Marin.



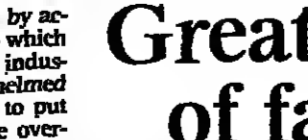
CONCERTS  
the founder members of Hesperion XX in 1974, is Catalan by birth, and has this music in her blood. The required idiom is not one of clean, clear-cut vocal lines, but of folk-like elisions, bent notes and above all naturally inflected and strongly projected words. In the love songs, Figueras sighed and moaned like the nuptial dove of which she sang, but with the most refined of nuances: Arianna Savall's exquisite harp playing here formed an ideal accompaniment.

Rolf Lislevand and Jordi Savall on guitar and gambus respectively also balanced virtuosity and restraint. Pedro Estevan and Adela Gonzalez-Campa added rhythmic tension with a variety of percussive effects: drums, bells, castanets, tambourines and clapping. In instrumental dances by Gaspar Sanz and others, there was further evidence of the players' intuitive rapport, while Jordi Savall asserted his mastery in a set of variations on the traditional folia. Later in the evening, Pickett's own New London Consort presented nine "songs of ecstasy" from the *Miracles de Notre-Dame* by the 12th-century monk Gaucier de Coincy. Shrewdly promoting the sequence as an angel concert,

Pickett devised a semi-staged realisation, supposedly drawing on visionary accounts and iconographical evidence of such happenings. The "staging" consisted of little more than nine singers in white cassocks processing round the auditorium and on to the platform, where they were accompanied by an array of suitable instruments, including the harp (Frances Kelly), gittern (Tom Finucane), fiddles and clavicembalum, with Pickett on symphony and recorder. The singers sang beautifully in ensemble (some less so when exposed as soloists); the instrumentalists played like angels.

BARRY MILLINGTON

ONE advantage of programming by accretion rather than by selection — which is generally more attractive to the industrious compiler than the overwhelmed consumer — is that it does help to put things in perspective. So even the over-the-top limited choice in load of Smetana that Edinburgh Festival the third week of the things sorted out. As an orchestral score, rather than as a revered monument, Smetana's six-part epic, *Ma Vlast*, certainly has its weaknesses. On the other hand, after hearing the same composer's much earlier *Festive Overture* and even his *Wallenstein's Camp* in the first of Sir Charles Mackerras's two concerts with the Czech Philharmonic, it was very clear how superior *Ma Vlast* is as an expression of Czech nationalism. One might wish that the composer had stopped with the fourth piece in the set — or at least that a big way in *Bohemian Woods and Fields*, he had not so comprehensively abandoned it for the gruff, unadorned and scarcely tolerable repetitions of *Tabor*. And yet, at the end



of *Blank*, which so discouragingly begins with the same grimly indomitable rhythmic figure, the last-night audience couldn't stay long enough in the Usher Hall to register its enthusiasm. In fact, Mackerras's fervent interpretation of *Ma Vlast* had outdone even his brilliant account of Mahler's First Symphony (alongside the two other Smetana works) in the same hall the day before. Including the original second movement, *Blumine*, that Mahler conducted three times before definitively excluding it

from the published score, Mackerras made it more of a symphonic poem and less of a symphony. On the other hand, the work was conducted not only with characteristic clarity and rhythmic precision, but also with a well-calculated structural strategy. Some of Mahler's First Symphony, like the village band imitations, was so vividly characterised by the Czech Philharmonic that, quite legitimately, it could almost have been another celebration of the Czech idiom. But where Mackerras and his orchestra excelled was in sustaining faith, against formidable odds at times, in *Ma Vlast*. The point about the dubious *Tabor* and *Blank* is that one is not complete without the other, that the two together make a finale that transcends the six-part construction. Presented with as much sensitivity to its lyrical inspiration as conviction in its affirmations, *Ma Vlast* is as effective in ending a festival in Edinburgh as opening one in Prague.

GERALD LARNER

## For the children of our time

THEY arrived three-legged, putting on lipstick, waving cellos over the arena crowd. One swapped his french horn for a baby and strode off the stage with it. The leader, true to form, interrupted the conductor to shake hands. Seconds before the final bars, two percussionists in anoraks crashed on to the stage. It was one way of making the longest work of Sunday's Blue Peter 40th Birthday Prom — *Bolero* — pass quickly. And it brought the house down.

A full house of parents and children gave television presenter Katy Hill, conductor Yan Pascal Tortelier and the BBC Philharmonic a warm welcome. With an audience such as this, ready to riot at the slightest pall, there is a temptation to rush, and the *Fanzans* for the *Common Man* fare past, as did a far-from-feline *Pink Panther*.

But that was to underestimate these listeners. A cheekily restrained Pizzicato Polka drew keen concentration, and five-year-old Casimir near me jiggled spontaneously to the second movement of Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra. Prokofiev worked his usual magic in a rip-roaring *Death of Tybalt*; by now the children had discovered the art of the foot-stamping roar. But

Casimir will possibly remember Alasdair Malloy's wildly non-PC Chinese percussionist — who hammered a xylophone until it went up in smoke — for longer. If the afternoon was for a happy band of children of our time, then the evening cut a more sombre note. Tippett's wartime oratorio, *A Child of Our Time*, is performed all-too rarely; with its feet in Bach's Passions and Handel's Messiah, its head in 20th-century blues and its heart open, it seems to belong to us all. Though Sir Colin Davis maintained a compelling grip, this reading with the London Symphony Chorus and Orchestra had room to breathe. What Davis brings out is the dancing transparency of the counterpoint, and the warm, quick-fire responsiveness of the chorus. The LSO strings recreated the ethereal opening with their special radiance. The crunch of trumpets announced an asserive brass section: heavy trombones occasionally covered the wayward tenor Jerry Hadley. John Tomlinson's delivery had a speaking edge; less urgent were the words of soprano Deborah Riedel and the French alto Nora Gubisch.

HELEN WALLACE

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# A gift for making drudgery divine

Pieter de Hooch's lonely death, in an Amsterdam asylum for the insane, contrasts bleakly with the domestic contentment warming his finest work. No record survives to explain why he suffered such a woeful decline. But the paintings of his early maturity, assembled now in a superb show at Dulwich Picture Gallery, testify to a love of family life at its most untroubled. The father of seven children, he made his finest images hinge on the unaffected rapport between mothers and offspring.

Vermeer, his great contemporary in mid-17th century Delft, had at least 11 children but never admitted them to the images he painted. He is a cooler artist than de Hooch, who defined familial love with such directness that sentimentality is avoided.

In trace of this central concern can be detected in his youthful pictures, where care-taking figures in taverns conform to a well-worn tradition in Dutch art. By the time he painted *Mother and Child with a Serving Woman Sweeping*, though, de Hooch had discovered his most rewarding subject. The handling may be fuzzy, the perspective uncertain. But the straightforward affection of the mother cradling the infant is already heartfelt, and might well owe something to the artist's own experience of fatherhood.

De Hooch arrived at his mature style with surprising speed. In the late 1650s, when he was not yet 30, the merry-making taverns gave way to an emphasis on still, simple and sober scenes. Children pause, arrested by the sight of women washing laundry in a tub or laying out linen. Church towers surge over rooftops, adding to the air of rectitude.

But de Hooch avoids trite sermonising. He concentrates instead on defining a sense of place, and bathing it in a luminosity that transforms everything in sight.

### GALLERIES: Richard Cork marvels at Pieter de Hooch's domestic masterpieces, on show in Dulwich

The son of a bricklayer, he savours the light's ability to dance across a decayed wall and make even the cement sparkle. He is equally fascinated by deep spatial recession. In a stiff, cheerless family group, posing in a Delft courtyard for a dutiful dynastic portrait, de Hooch introduces unexpected mystery by leading our eyes through a doorway to a second space. Here, a fashionably dressed man stands with his back to the main group, anonymous and unexplained. Oddly transfixed, he gazes at a red door in the distance, opening on to a glimpse of the town beyond.

De Hooch's finest paintings are all punctuated by similar moments, when everyday activity is suspended and a meditative mood asserts itself. A soldier with a pretentious plumed hat seems, at first, to be carousing with companions. But with one hand suspended in the air he directs an awed gaze towards the glass of wine held up delicately by the woman beside him. It glitters in the light from the casement window, and de Hooch ensures that vessel, liquid and reflected brightness are all depicted with exemplary subtlety.

Everyone at the table seems mesmerised by the sight of this container, and the servant carrying a brazier of coals by the fireplace is also notable for her stillness. Penitenti dislocate that an old man with a white beard once stood beside her, but de Hooch decided in the end to stress the woman's meditative stance by isolating

her. The decision to place a painting of *The Education of the Virgin* above her head may indicate that he also aimed at emphasising the virtue inherent in performing ordinary household tasks.

Sometimes, de Hooch allows quiet humour to enliven his domestic scenes. In 1658, an *annus mirabilis*, he painted a captivating panel where a mother smiles at the infant on her lap and gestures towards a small child. Clasping a limp and contented dog as if in imitation of her mother, the child grins back.

A sick and balled lie on the floor, momentarily forgotten. All the figures are caught up in the pleasures of nurturing, and the child is clearly preparing herself in a game-playing way for her maternal role to come. Serving women also enjoy an intimate accord with the children in their temporary charge. A maid offers a jug of beer to a fair-haired child dressed in an elaborate bonnet and dress. Despite the feminine attire, the child is a boy. And however dubious we may feel about his access to alcohol, the Dutch regarded beer as a healthy beverage even for babies.

In the end, though, there was no substitute for maternal milk. The one painting where de Hooch displays his powers with outstanding finality takes, as its governing theme, the act of suckling. While a blithe child feeds a dog with a bowl, the mother sits beside her and proffers a swollen breast to the infant. Everything conspires to surround

‘He loved to portray a rapport between woman and child’

the baby with sustenance. Fingers interlocked, the mother's hands grasp her offspring in a protective embrace. Further support is provided by her right knee, raised up. But the mother shows no sign of strain: she gazes down at the baby with rapt satisfaction.

Above all, the flow of sun enhances the mood of private happiness. It suffuses the entire room with a reassuring glow. The mother's burnished red skirt seems to give off heat, and its radiance is echoed by her cheeks. This intense luminosity transforms an everyday scene into a supreme manifestation of nurturing joy.

Another painting, *The Bedroom*, suggests that children and light became increasingly entwined in de Hooch's imagination. In one corner, a woman handles blankets near a bed. She inhabits the darkest part of the room, but looks up from her labours to discover that a child has just opened the door and come in. Light leaps across the small figure, and spills over the floor-tiles like particles of glinting snow.

It reaches maximum intensity in the child's hair, bursting like flames through the unruly tendrils. Acting as a secular halo, it heightens the rapturous smile directed by the child at the woman. She responds, forgetting the business of bed-making in order to marvel instead at the intruder. De Hooch invests this incident with so much conviction that it becomes as momentous as an Annunciation.

Without indulging in false piety, his most impressive paintings discover benediction even in the least elevated of daily routines. The same bedroom becomes, in another canvas, the setting for a seated woman whose child kneels on the floor and rests its head in her lap. The precise action of the mother's fingers indicates that she is plucking lice from her offspring's hair. But this



Pieter de Hooch invests the simplest household scene with intense mystery, as in *Woman with Children in an Interior*

### AROUND THE GALLERIES: LONDON AND LIVERPOOL

unpleasant hygienic ritual is transformed into a display of maternal devotion.

The woman bends her head forward, lost in solemn concentration. And the kneeling child looks equally intent, as if absorbed in prayer. Nothing disturbs their mutual concentration, for the rest of the room is occupied only by a pet animal.

After moving to Amsterdam around 1661, de Hooch went into decline. His interiors grow more ornate, the sitters grander, the canvases often larger. But the all-important sense of wonder becomes hard to find. The spontaneous warmth binding mother to child in the Delft pictures has vanished, to be replaced by a frigid display of wealth.

Did de Hooch ever grasp the full extent of his loss? If he did it may well have contributed to the mental deterioration he eventually suffered. The last painting on show, executed seven years before his death in 1684, devotes most of its space to a sumptuously dressed couple relishing each other's company with the help of oysters, wine and a black musician. Dusk is descending on their courtyard, but de Hooch with the canal-side houses still brilliantly lit beyond the archway.

Silhouetted against the final flare of sunset, a young man stares out from the darkness as if spellbound by the distant brightness. He might almost embody de Hooch's own longing for his old feeling of awe, sharpened now by the melancholy realisation that it was beyond recovery.

Pieter de Hooch is at the Dulwich Picture Gallery 0181-693 5254 until Nov 15

WHEN it comes to visual arts, nobody really knows what on earth has been happening in the United States of late; and the catalogue introduction to *Young Americans 2* at the Saatchi Gallery admits as much. "A decade long Si Vitus dance" is the description it settles for. The energy of this show attests as much. Charles Saatchi is not defining any movement, as he has done in Britain with his New Neurotic Realists, but rather reflecting the variety and vitality of an omnivorous American vision.

This show ranges from the microscopic precision of Tom Friedman's housefly, sculpted from fuzz, Playdo and plastic, to Jessica Stockholder's skip-content sculptures — bold, bright and slapdash. In between are raffish little oil portraits romancing modern pop stars, huge gridlocked abstractions by Terry Winters and an installation by Brian Tolle. His styrofoam fireplace with its fake wooden beams may hark affectionately back to a cosier age, but it doesn't sit ill with the more progressive pieces in a show as heterogeneous as the art scene it attempts to represent.

*Saatchi Gallery, Boundary Rd, London NW8 0171-624 8299* until Nov 22

ARTISTS often tend towards introspection. But Gavin Turk is self-obsessed. His graduation from the Royal College of Art was marked by the exhibition of a blue English Heritage-style house plaque with his own name on it; his *Sensation* show contribution was a waxwork effigy of himself as Sid Vicious. In *The Stuff Show* you can



Self-obsession raised to an art form: Gavin Turk's *Oil*

follow his ongoing attempts to turn his own persona into a contemporary icon with effigies of Turk in the tub, Turk as a tramp or Turk as a pistol-packer. Portraits of the artist in various masks do nothing to cover up the self-obsession. But the monomania becomes mesmerising.

South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Rd, London SE5 0171-703 6120 from Thursday to Oct 15

THREE hundred years ago, not even the waters bucketed up from the adjacent Thames could put out the fire which raged through the Palace of Whitehall, destroying all but a part of it. But now, through architectural drawings by Inigo Jones, John

Webb and Christopher Wren, through topographical studies by contemporary observers and recovered archaeological objects as well as a model reconstruction, the original appearance and 168-year history of the palace, as it developed from the London seat of Cardinal Wolsey to that of the principal residence of Tudor and Stuart monarchs, is retraced.

The exhibition, *The Lost Palace of Whitehall*, offers an unexpected peep behind the curtains of royal history. It includes a glimpse of the huge canvas *An Allegory of the Restoration* which once adorned Charles II's bedchamber. *RIBA Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Sq W1 0171-307 3628* from tomorrow to Oct 24

AS THE peace process lurches forward in Northern Ireland, a show by Willie Doherty reflects the contradictions which any observer must sense. Spanning a confused decade, the photographic and audiovisual works of *Some-where Else* confront the dichotomies of conflict by setting idyllic images of an Emerald Isle against the violence of a nation torn in two. Desolate dereliction meets a tourist's idyll.

But Doherty's greatest art is to use his medium to explain the ways in which news reporters and documentary-makers distort or manipulate our ideas. His imaginative echoes of common media devices set the viewer at an often very uncomfortable angle to the politics of Northern Ireland. *Tate Gallery, Liverpool 0151-709 3223* until Oct 4

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

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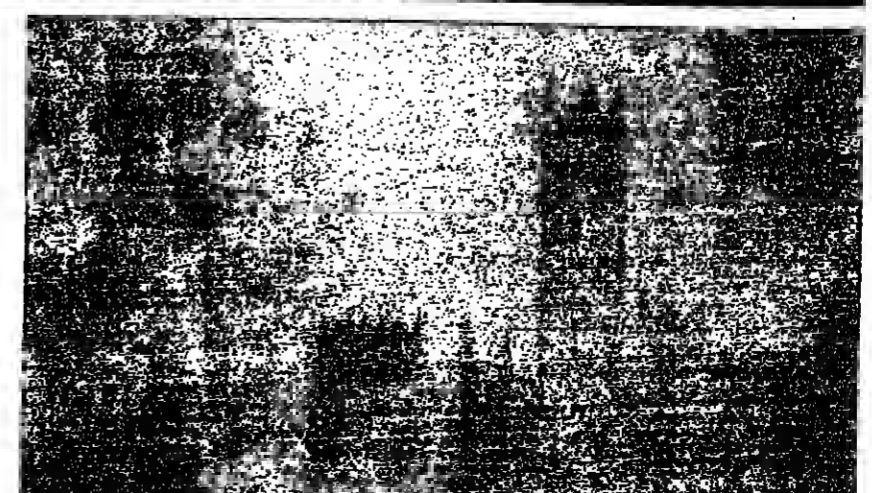
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### MONET IN THE 20TH CENTURY: PAINTING OF THE DAY

Each day this week Richard Cork selects outstanding paintings from the forthcoming Royal Academy exhibition

TODAY: Houses of Parliament, Sunset, 1904

Monet found London so engrossing that he made three trips there, concentrating increasingly on the Thames between Westminster and Waterloo Bridge. His earliest painting of the Houses of Parliament, a small 1871 canvas now in the National Gallery, had been a delicate affair. But in this outstanding picture executed 33 years later he is far more audacious. The waning sun, half-shrouded in a crepuscular mist, turns buildings into spectral silhouettes. But it still bursts like a bomb on the water, allowing Monet to show how uninhibited he had become with his broken brushwork and incandescent colour.



Times readers have exclusive priority booking access to 50,000 tickets for the Royal Academy's *Monet in the 20th Century* exhibition (Jan 23 to April 19, 1999), sponsored by Ernst & Young. Telephone Firstcall 0670 842 2200, booking fee £1.80 per ticket on first five tickets, £1.40 per ticket thereafter by Sept 30

صكنا من الأهل

COMEDY Jasper Carrott on tour

Encore without cheers

Brian Friel's obsession with memory and subjective truth has coloured everything he's written since Philadelphia, Here I Come in 1964.

Narrated by their grown-up nephew, Michael, the play

Dancing at Lughnasa Arts, WC2

squints through rose-tinted binoculars at this impoverished Donegal family glued together by pots of tea and mounds of frustration.

Edward Wilson's new production for the National Youth Theatre cleverly differentiates the squabbling sisters.

Michelle Brown's Rose is a nicely unpredictable clown in wellies. Bea Holland's Maggie is the chain-smoking laddish one.

A blind date with satire

It is true: there are few lonelier hearts than a critic's. James Christopher writes. I've never had the gumption to place a personal ad in a newspaper or magazine.

There is a sophistication and enthusiasm about Dion McHugh's production that starts and ends with Matthew



Bitter harvest: five sisters confront their fears in the National Youth Theatre staging of Brian Friel's modern classic

ling's repressed, religious Kate is preposterously righteous.

The mood is one of monotony with twinges of comedy and melancholia. Mad uncle Jack, a priest whose head has been turned by years in Uganda, drifts absent-mindedly through the kitchen, shocking Kate with his love of pagan tribal practices.

Wry fun with timeless appeal

W as that Status Quo playing over the PA before the start of the show? If so, it was an appropriate choice, since Jasper Carrott survives as another stubbornly unfashionable institution.

day he will come back for Chris. This is as dangerous as it gets. The only unspoken tease is whether Michael's memory is as faulty as the wireless set.

Despite Christopher Logan's neatly detached performance as the ambivalent narrator, there is too little shading in the production to prick the sentimental bubble of nostalgia the NYT presents on stage.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Rich, moving tribute

Twenty-five years ago this month the Chilean singer, poet and revolutionary, Victor Jara, was tortured and murdered by members of the military during the brutal coup that overthrew President Allende's Popular Unity Government.

Jara, who started life as a barefoot shanty child, was an authentic freedom fighter who proudly boasted that his guitar was an instrument of struggle that could shoot like a gun.

Chile's best-known band, Inti-Illimani, were close friends of Jara's. When the coup happened, they were out of the country in 1973 and stayed on the road in exile for the next 15 years.

Clive Davis and Williamson

Wry fun with timeless appeal

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Comedians of his ilk seldom get reviewed nowadays. That hardly seems fair, considering that he, for one, still commands a large, multi-generational following.

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Clive Davis and Williamson

LISTINGS Flamenco in London

Rich, moving tribute

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Clive Davis and Williamson

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargre

LONDON

BBC PROMS: Raphael Oleg is the soloist with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra in the first Proms performance ever of Szymanowski's Violin Concerto No 1.

CRAME: Sarah Kane's impressive play for four speakers, telling of love and allied troubles.

VIA DOLOROSA: David Hare performs in his own one-man play confronting the exponents of a first visit to Israel and Palestine.

RAICES FLAMENCAS: The Gypsy family troupe Farruco visits London for the first time with a programme making a dizzying journey back to the origins of flamenco dance.

ELSEWHERE: Leicester: Paul Kerryson directs Kathryn Evans and Liza Huxley as mother and daughter in The Birds.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: First production of the Shamus industry's so-called Discipline Season.

THE LADY BOYS OF BANGKOK: Bizarre West End appearances for 20 Thai transvestites, said to be world famous, in an extravaganza of dance, cabaret and costume changes.

PERSONALS: Love via the small ads: British premiere for New York comedy musical revue by the team who went on to write Friends.

THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE: Mark Raymond directs Belinda Lang in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a surprising love and its surprising consequences for lovers.

THE PLAY ABOUT THE BABY: Franco de la Tour, Alan Howard in Edward Albee's odd play about the Howard Daveses and director Howard Daveses.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Now in its 5th London theatre, Peter Hall's

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES: CARRESES: Ranked Spanish film about unrequited love during the idiosyncratic director Ventura Port, adapted from a play and packed with wit.

THE LAST DAYS OF PRINCE: Woody erfornances of college graduates in a New York dance club. Fine cast, good period details, but no pep.

SPECIES II (18): Despatched and oversexed horror sequel, with Natasha Henstridge as the man-made alien combatting an

WAY OUT WEST (U): Laurel and Hardy gently spoof the western's idiosyncratic director Ventura Port, adapted from a play and packed with wit.

THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG): Movie scientist gets drawn into a con trick. Spiv entertainment from writer-director David Mamet, with Campbell Scott, Steve Martin, and Rebecca Pidgeon.

ARMAGEDDON (12): Oil driller Bruce Willis and his roughneck crew strike out into space to save the world. Absurdly amusing, and enjoyable blockbuster. With Billy Bob Thornton, Ben Affleck, and Liv Ullmer.

THE X-FILES (15): Mulder and Scully tumble upon an extra-dimensional virus. More an extended TV episode than a blockbuster movie. With David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson. Director: Rob Bowman.

CONCERTS: PRINCE AND THE NEW POWER GENERATION: Prince and the New Power Generation perform live at the Royal Albert Hall.

A large grid of theatre listings for various venues including Apollo Victoria, Dominion, Lyric, and others, listing plays, dates, and ticket prices.

# You don't want a party like that

## Michael Gove says Ashdown's Lib Dems are smug and bossy

**P**addy Ashdown only thinks he's Britain's best-known Liberal Democrat. The nation's most conspicuous example of current Lib Dem ideology in action is actually a bespectacled but voluble figure in a white flat cap and gaiter blouse. With his deathless injunction, "you don't want to go and do it like that," Harry Enfield's Interfering Old Git captures more succinctly than the Lib Dem leader ever could the essence of Ashdownism. The Enfield character's catchphrase lives in the mind longer than any Ashdown soundbite, but it resonates because it encapsulates the attitude of all the little Captain Ashdowns across the country.

The Ashdownite, a very English blend of Captain Mainwaring and Obadiiah Slope, is smug and bossy without ever having won or run anything worthwhile. Pompous, pious and incapable of accepting that others might grow through error because he can never admit errors himself, Ashdownism is less an ideology than a character defect. Sufferers are drawn ineluctably to the shrunken chambers of local government, with their unrivalled opportunities for licensing and lecturing while always laying the blame elsewhere.

Mr Ashdown was at it again this week, before we'd even shaken the sand out of our plimsolls, telling us where we'd got it all wrong in a brand new policy document and styling his party the "pathfinders" of British politics. Self-praise, as my mother always said, is no honour. But it is not just in his descriptor of himself as a pathfinder that Mr Ashdown errs. He is neither very liberal nor particularly attached to democracy.

The same week that Mr Ashdown was sewing the pathfinder badge on his knapsack, he found himself falling in behind the Government as it enacts a series of draconian anti-terrorist measures. Although Mr Ashdown has often told us that his conscience is affronted by new Labour's authoritarianism, he did not vote against this, the most egregiously authoritarian of all the Government's acts. What use is a liberal who will not stand up for liberty when reaction is pulling on its boots?

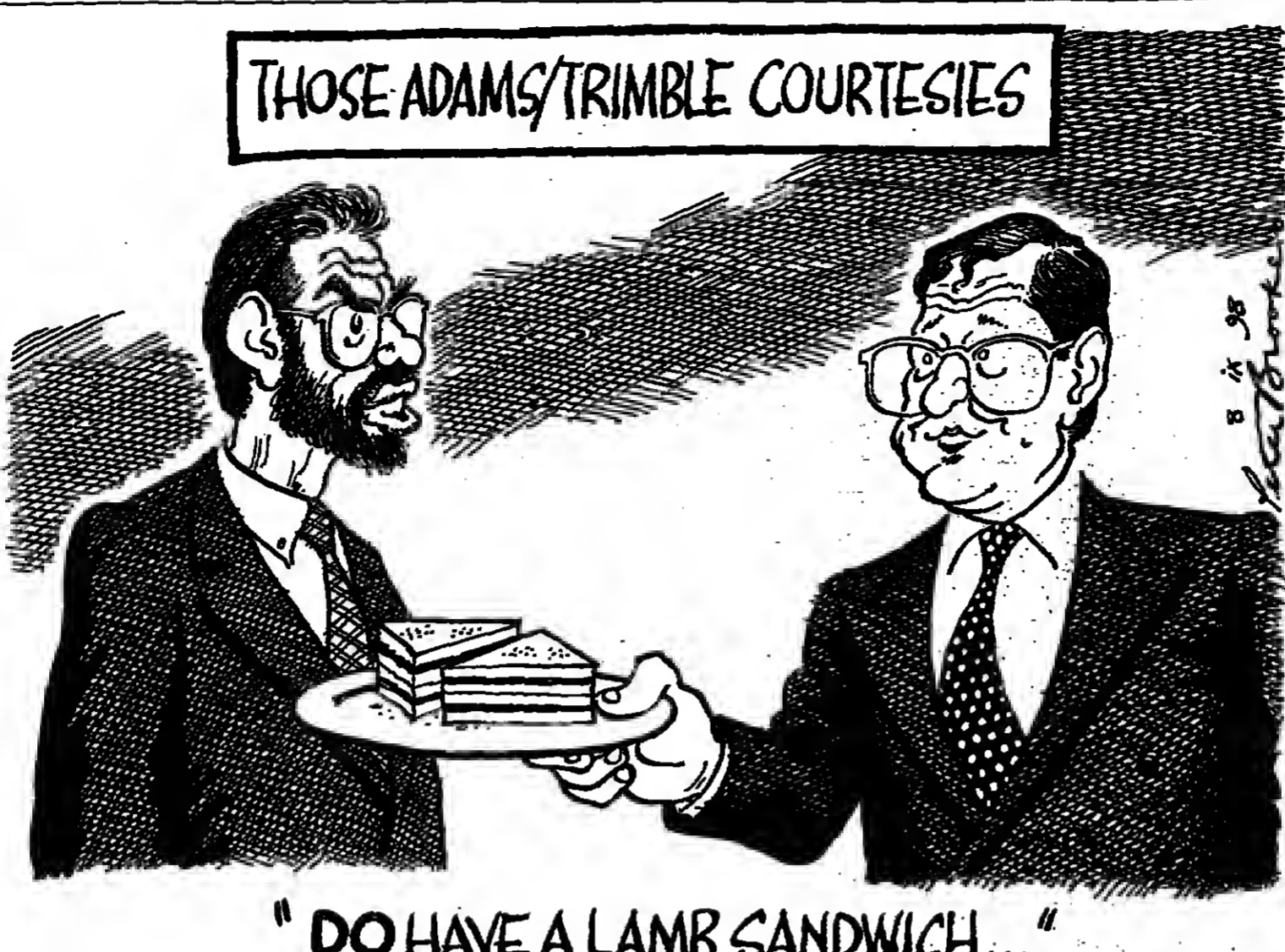
Britain needs a stronger liberal voice and a political force prepared to safeguard those institutions where decisions are still taken democratically. It had such a voice in Jo Grimond, it can hear the same values in the speeches of Conrad Russell, but it won't find them in Mr Ashdown's leadership. He makes no secret of his disdain for Parliament. He narrows his eyes, in a posture so vain you see him add a beauty spot to a rouged cheek, and looks beyond the Commons to a strengthened Brussels and an independent central bank. Power is to be insulated from fickle electorates who have stubbornly declined to hand it to him.

**Pompous, pious and unable to admit his OWN errors**

by a penny to pay for more education spending; but even that apparent consistency is a mirage in the Liberal Democrat desert. Since that first, arbitrary promise was made, taxes have increased and so has spending on schools, but the slogan is too precious to ditch. You don't want to raise taxes and improve schools like that, you want to do it like this.

**B**ut why break a butterfly upon a wheel? What harm does the Liberal Democrat leader do? Unfortunately he may be about to do a great deal, both to Britain and to liberalism. In an effort to buy Liberal Democrat compliance at Westminster and Lib Dem votes in the country, Tony Blair is likely to offer the Lib Dem leader a change in the voting system that would all but guarantee him a place in government. (It would also guarantee that future governments were chosen by politicians after elections, rather than by people at elections.)

It is with that prize in mind that Mr Ashdown has seemed to conduct himself. He has declined to vote against the Government when it mattered, an accomplice in their liberalism hoping to benefit from their rewriting of democracy. Mr Ashdown may secure his seat in the Cabinet, but he will have bought it by selling liberal principles short. True liberals are instinctive enemies of monopolies. Are there enough left in Mr Ashdown's party to tell him he does not enjoy one in wisdom and he should help to create one in power?



# Princes or paupers?

## The think-tankers of the People's Party are out of touch with the people

**P**oor old Demos. Just as new Labour's favourite think-tank comes up with its ideas for a cooler monarchy, the nation's attention is distracted. A threat is posed to a national icon, one of the central pillars of British life: it is proposed to change its funding and historical status forever. Good heavens, with this great change hanging over Manchester United, how can we be expected to pay any attention to Demos's ideas for the Royal Family? What should have been the top headline is banished to the inside pages.

To add insult to this injury Downing Street squeaks that "this report has nothing to do with the Government"; giving the clear message that it is dead in the water. Damn! We have been done out of an interesting discussion. Just because *Modernising the Monarchy* is full of poty ideas does not mean it can be disregarded. Hidden among them are some useful points. Equally importantly the tone of the report, coming from a source so close to new Labour thinking, offers fine clues to the way the People's Party, nervy and metropolitan and neurotically obsessed with modernisation, is in constant danger of losing touch with the great, silent, amazed, emotionally unmoderated majority of actual People.

The Demos suggestions are, pace Tim Hames on these pages yesterday, wild. (It is also a bit rich of Mr Hames to reprove Buckingham Palace for its "new, slick, emphasis on presentation", while speaking for the organisation that invented "rebranding Britain". Talk about ingratitude.) Anyway, his proposal for a "renewed" monarchy is this. All remaining political powers, taken as they are, get stripped from the monarch; no openings of Parliament, no Royal Assents, no drive to the Palace after a general election, no knightsings. Instead we would have certificates signed by the Speaker and an independent (ie, new-Lab-packed) honours commission. So there would be no symbolic "Crown" authority invoked in anything real; it would rapidly become a nonsense to put a royal face on stamps and coins.

This, say the authors, would "enhance the transparency of political life". It is hard to see how. Given the recent propensity of British Governments for pathologically secretive behaviour, there are worse threats to transparency than the Queen. I may be missing something here, but as a citizen I have always been vaguely comforted by the sense that the Crown, and therefore the nation, endures like weathered granite through whatever turbulence and buffoonery may pass in Parliament. There is also something reassuring in the knowledge that every Prime Minister, every week, has a confidential and not necessarily comfortable conversation with a monarch; that is to say with someone who is not their dependant, not their sycophant, who has no political affiliation beyond patriotism and who has seen governments rise and fall over decades. This sense of continuity, of a nation mature enough to be able to make electoral mistakes and later recant without risk of losing its identity, is profoundly useful. It is symbolised, like it or not, by all the dressed-up flummery of State Openings and chaps in breeches.

Another concept floated in the pamphlet is oddly referred to as "the supremacy of public opinion". Under Demos, any new monarch would have to pass an "affirmative referendum"; if he or she failed, the next heir would be voted on. No consideration is given to the volatility of public opinion; nor to the personal implications. Would Prince William, do you suppose, accede happily to a throne which had been contemptuously denied to his father? Would he be happy to be campaigned for by the media just after his grandmother's death?

Having acceded, would he accept to have every vestige of individual taste or talent neutralised, and replaced by some strict committee's blueprint for a right-on RoboKing? Under Demos, royal charities would be chosen by committee to include constituencies which "do not attract automatic sympathy or tolerance (considering they have already adopted Aids, dementia, homelessness and a host of depressing ailments, the mind boggles). Royal patronage of art would not be allowed to be "con-

trasted with the innate, gentle conservatism and romanticism of British hearts. But they want a bit of that magic for their own project, so they do not propose to free the royals from the goldfish bowl.

This is another very good reason for the heir and the spare to run screaming from their appointment. Even with the present degree of royal privilege, and the alleged covenant of self-restraint on the press, it was possible for close-up — albeit fuzzy — full-face pictures of two bereaved children at their mother's memorial service to be printed, very large, in several papers including *The Daily Telegraph*; followed by *endless double-page spreads* of a 13-year-old's arrival at school. Would you put up with that, if you weren't even allowed to choose your own pictures or your own charities or your own school or your own doctor or run and hide at Balmoral? Like hell you would.

**A**nd yet, for all its shallow modernist piety, the Demos report — just by existing — deserves a coconut. It is what Disney executives call a "blue sky" dream: an expression of willingness to think about impossible things and find small possible things as a result. Amid the rubbish are nuggets of importance. It is true that the momentum of royal adaptation must not stop: the monarchy must stay in touch with the people (not, please note, the People). It is true that the link with the Church of England is an embarrassment: a great many serious people feel that disestablishment is not only the best thing for the monarchy, but the only hope for the Church. There is also a discussion to be had about courtiers. The idea of a professional "Office of the Monarchy" is not without merit, although it should be said that if you actually look at who works at Buckingham Palace and St James's, there are already far fewer cut-glass accents than there used to be. The report unkindly says that the present Royal Household is "seen by many people as a welfare state for the minor aristocracy", which is a cheap gibe: all the same an office — rather than a household — might be seen as a better model.

So one cheer for Demos. A cat may look at a king. The cat may be wrong in its conclusions, but others, following its gaze, can draw their own. Miao.

### Libby Purves

# Football isn't just business

## Simon Barnes on soccer's symbiosis with the zipper

**O**n August 19, 1989, a rum little fellow with a bad mousetache ran on to the pitch at Manchester United, wearing the red shirt of Manchester United football club and juggling a football in the time-honoured playground pastime known as "keepy-uppy".

This was Michael Knighton, the new chairman of the club, celebrating his purchase of the most celebrated club in football for £10 million. The keepy-uppy was the most solid, and certainly the most dignified, part of the deal.

The consensus was that Martin Edwards, the outgoing chairman, had done rather a smart deal in getting the white elephant of Manchester United off his hands. However, the Knighton millions never fully materialised. Mr Knighton left the club, and Mr Edwards returned as chairman.

This week, Mr Edwards is negotiating the sale of the same club for £75 million. Sometimes it pays to hold your nerve and wait for a price. The likely buyer, if newspapers like *The Times* are to be believed, is a chap called Rupert Murdoch. Mr Murdoch is one of the greatest jugglers in history: the maestro of keepy-uppy. I know, I am that football.

Or part of it, anyway. It is part of the pattern of things: Mr Murdoch buys venerable institutions, part of the bedrock of the countries in which he operates, and there is a tremendous outcry, and he seals the deal and then he does it again.

People are saying that it is the end of football as we know it. And of course they are right; and they are wrong as well. Because football has already changed utterly. Or to be accurate, the way in which we watch football has changed: we have moved from massed terraces and Pathe news to executive suites and television, television, television.

And football people get nostalgic for the days of the real football fan, just as cricket people yearn for golden Edwardian afternoons with Denis Compton cover-driving comfortably into the Eighties (chronological exactitude has never been an important part of nostalgia).

Why can't we go back to those innocent days when football was the sport for the working man? And why can't we go back to the Pleistocene? But we shall never walk hand in hand with *Homo erectus*, and we shall never return to the terraces full of cloth-capped men, 19 pints of ale and a fish supper and ill enough change to ride home in a hansom cab.

Time passes, shock. Things change, horror. The fact is that the proposed Murdoch deal rubs in this difficult aspect of life to an altogether unacceptable degree. But it has been coming since the first pappas POM papapa pom-pom of the *Match of the Day* theme tune was poured into the porches of our ears.

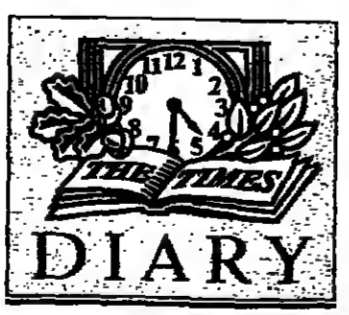
# Royal rescue

**T**HE Prince of Wales is to step in to rescue Snowdon for the nation. He is to dip into the royal wallet to add a "substantial" donation to that of another popular top Taff, Sir Anthony Hopkins (pictured with the Prince). This follows simplistic reports elsewhere that the Prince was cutting his charitable donations. He was responding to pleasings from the National Trust in Wales, which is running out of time to raise £3 million to buy the miserable little hill, with 4,118 acres of variable pasture that makes up the Snowdonia estate. The trust hopes the Prince's gift, believed to be about £150,000, will kick-start an appeal that has stalled rather since Hopkins bunged over £1 million big ones. "The Prince is happy to make one of the largest donations this year from his Charities Foundation to the Snowdon fund," says the Palace. "Even though the Prince is not in Wales all the time he thinks it is important to preserve this national symbol." Income for the Prince of Wales's Charities Foundation is produced by sales of his watercolours and books.

Charles's largess is timely following reports that his donations have shrunk, despite profits from his estate rising to almost £6 million. The cash will be wasted unless this royal gesture galvanises valley dwellers. The National Trust is still £1 million short of the £3 million required to buy the estate and donations from within Wales work out

at a rather Caledonian 5p per head. There is still time for Tom Jones to join Charles and Tony for an all-Welsh "Save Snowdon" spectacular. More radically, the trust could even raid its annual revenue of £145 million.

**• A BUNCH of nuns are to open their own golf course. Driving into a world of V-neck sweaters and "bottoms up to the good lady wife" are the Sisters of St Joseph. The entrepreneurs in Germany are investing £3.9 million in an 18-hole golf**



course. It will have five lakes, 8,000 shrubs, and 350 trees to thwart swingers aiming for a hole in one.

## Town cries

**CIVIL WAR** has broken out between three Oxfordshire towns for the mantle of "oldest town in England". Wallingford boasts a town charter dating back to 1150 but Burford is claiming an extra half-century's antiquity. And now Abingdon has called in the Oxford Archaeological Unit to verify the size of its ancient burial mounds.

The Mayors of Wallingford and Burford have agreed to settle the heritage question with a good old-fashioned brawl. "A duel fought with a rolled up ancient parchment" proposes Keith Davies, the Burford bomber: "That should make the dust fly." Betty Atkins,

the Wallingford walloper, fears she will be at a disadvantage: "I'm afraid the Mayor of Burford is a lot bigger than me." Too bad: let battle commence.

**• DRERIC GRIFFITHS**, the shopkeeper's son who sneezed at a Cambridge interview for her Estuary vowels, appears to have apologised — in his own, danish way. Griffiths, who forgot to mention his own, low table origins on his way to a fellowship at Trinity College, starts a review of Victoria Glendinning's Jonathan Swift with a disguised mea culpa: "Among the saddest words known to man are 'I was only joking'. Something meant as

a tease comes over as a put-down; a deliberate exaggeration is taken straight. I tickle you, you feel molested." He presents this as analysis of Swift's habit of "laying banana-skins just where he or his reader were about". Tracy Playler, his victim, will undoubtedly feel "ticked" by his "banana-skins".

**Gown down** AN EVEN grander Cantabrigian is also set for a humbling. The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the gloomy little fernland educational establishment, is to be the subject of a debate among senior dons. The problem? His gown, a stinky black number with ornate gold gildings. On "scarlet days" (formal occasions) non-Cambridge PhDs are made to wear just simple black garments to reflect their humble academic standing. The University Council meets in November to discuss plans to lift the centuries-old tradition. Dons are to be balloted, which has excited the interests of less hard-working Cantabs. They mutter that the design of the Duke's gown "has not been authorised by any ordinance of the university". Its "suitability" on the university's scarlet days will be raised at the first council after the vote. Lord St John of Fawley, the former Man-



EMILIA FOX (above) may be a scion of the most pukka of English theatre dynasties but she is no star on the cricket field. The actress daughter of Edward was chosen to bowl in a match between the Chichester Festival Theatre XI and the Earl of Arundel's XI. The result? A thwack to the boundary.

**JASPER GERARD**

سكزا عن الأصول

# ACT TWO

on a C...

# MAD SHI

The public must learn to u...

# MAD SHI

The public must learn to u...



ACT TWO: THE DUMA

Zyuganov banks on a Communist return, without elections

Lenin, who thought "the worse, the better", would have applauded the farce enacted by Gennadi Zyuganov yesterday...

Little though Russians can afford this parliamentary spectacle, it is still only at the end of the second act...

Mr Yeltsin and Mr Chernomyrdin went perilously far towards letting this happen during the haggling prior to the latest vote...

fund wage arrears, and reformers and the IMF with a currency board — to be set up in months, not weeks...

Having aggravated Russia's crisis by sacking the last Government, Mr Yeltsin has no easy way out...

The only sacrifice Mr Yeltsin could wisely offer would be his own person — in the form of a pledge to advance presidential elections to late 1999...

Future status of Scots Guardsmen

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, There is anxiety that Guardsmen Fisher and Wright, who have been released on licence under a delegated remit...

These men have always maintained that they acted in good faith in accordance with their training...

Due account must be taken of the affidavits, in particular those of Lance-Sergeant Swift in charge of the four-man foot patrol...

I am, Sir, your obedient servant. CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY.

Industrial tribunals

From Mr S. R. Montlake

Sir, In your latter editions today you report two industrial tribunal judgments — one concerning the "unfair" dismissal of Peter Hain's secretary...

In the former case you reveal a lady incapable of carrying out a highly responsible job because of personal difficulties which obviously overwhelmed her...

In the other case a pregnant lady was taken on to do a job for which she was unqualified. Once again, one has to have sympathy for her...

Yours faithfully, S. R. MONTLAKE.

From Mr Terence F. Matthews

Sir, For anybody to obtain employment by not disclosing any reason which would cause them to be absent from work for some weeks...

It is illegal to ask a woman if she is pregnant when applying for employment, companies (especially small ones) should protect themselves by asking her: "Have you any reason to believe that you have a medical condition that will require you to take time off work in the next 12 months?"

To answer now when in fact there was such a reason would, in my view, be an instant-dismissal offence.

Yours sincerely, TERENCE F. MATTHEWS.

Put in quad

From Mr Peter Strachan Cowie

Sir, When I was at school in the mid-1970s, we were bemused at an instruction given by the master in charge of training the school's first XV...

Yours faithfully, PETER STRACHAN COWIE.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Availability of Viagra on the NHS

From the Chairman of Pfizer Ltd

Sir, Yesterday a Sunday newspaper reported that the Government will make a decision in the near future about the availability of Viagra on the NHS...

Dr Gordhandas refers in his letter to patients suffering from various diseases associated with impotence, such as diabetes or multiple sclerosis...

We also disagree with Dr Gordhandas's suggestion that in the absence of the conditions to which he refers it is impossible for the GP to prove or disprove impotence...

It is best carried out by the GP who understands all the personal circumstances of the patient and may well know the patient's partner...

Mr Orr's letter reminds us that "impotence... [is] not life-threatening". I am not aware that the vast majority of drugs available on the NHS are licensed to treat only life-threatening conditions...

We believe that impotence is a condition which the GP is in the best position to treat, including the prescription of the appropriate medicine...

Yours faithfully, KEN MORAN, Chairman and Managing Director, Pfizer Ltd.

Vicenzans' fancy for feline flavours

From Mr Charles Quest-Ritson

Sir, It will come as no surprise to any reader who is familiar with Italy that a cook from Vicenza should boast of his recipe for cat stew (leading article, September 3)...

Which loosely translates as: "The Venetians are tremendous nobles; Paduans are clever doctors (the medical school at the university is famous throughout Italy)..."

I live close to Stonehenge, which is much frequented by foreign tourists. Some time ago I saw a car with a Vicenza numberplate parked while its occupants visited the ancient monument...

Yours faithfully, CHARLES QUEST-RITSON, Highfield House, Shrewton, Wiltshire SP3 4BU.

From Mr Adrian Bailey

Sir, Your Rome correspondent reported on September 3 that there is a tradition of eating cat in Vicenza and that il gatto in teca (cat in a pot) is at its best in winter...

To judge by a recent visit to neighbouring Verona there appears to be no closed season for donkey, foal or horse. At a fashionable restaurant, the menu included stracotto d'asinno (braised donkey)...

Yours faithfully, ADRIAN BAILEY, 25 Chestnut Place, W2 4TT, September 3.

'Cyber-sickness'

From Mr Edward Ross

Sir, Your feature, "Trapped in a Web of misery" (September 2), on so-called "cyber-sickness" illustrates some of the reasons we said "surfing anomalies" become antisocial.

The study for American Psychologist seems to conclude that just because I sit at a computer for a substantial part of the day communicating with considerably more people than I would otherwise, that I am, somehow, less able to communicate.

It is any wonder that we regular computer users lie "to family or colleagues about the amount of time spent on the Internet"? We may do this to conceal what should not be to be concealed — that we are users of new technology — to avoid being labelled "geeks" or "nerds" or other such nonsense.

Yours sincerely, EDWARD ROSS, 38 Wykeham Way, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 0HF, edross@pavilion.co.uk, September 2.

Geek-speak lexicon

From Mr Robert Goddard

Sir, As a student of the political lexicon, I must inform you that the phrase "pondlife" (letter, August 27) is not restricted to "geek-speak".

It is sometimes prefixed (in colloquial parlance) with "parliamentary" to create a somewhat derogatory phrase to describe the obsequious inhabitants of the backbenches.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT GODDARD, 1 Priest Thorn, Fifield Neville, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 2AQ.

Novel inscription

From Mr Oliver Chastney

Sir, I suspect the unfortunate Mr Cushey will think more carefully about any future tokens of his affection to his wife after reading her letter (September 3)...

It has never occurred to me to tell my wife — although my secret is now out — that "Happy Birthday Caroline and Best Wishes, Della Smith 1998" was penned on the title page of the excellent Summer Collection by a complete stranger.

He and I were horrified at the prospect of the two-hour queue that snaked around the shelves of the local store and which, because of the cunning layout, only became apparent after purchasing the book.

Following a brief conspiratorial conversation, we swapped suitably inscribed books — mine to his mother, his to my wife — and went our separate ways.

Impulsive purchases provoked by pen-wielding authors at the local bookstore are perhaps best avoided. Yours faithfully, OLIVER CHASTNEY, 53 Kaswick Road, Cringleford, Norwich NR4 6UQ, chastney@uol.com, September 5.

HAGUE'S RABBIT

A bold plan to strengthen the anti-EMU policy

William Hague yesterday followed what has been a profitable principle of recent political leadership: stand up for what you believe and face down your internal opponents...

It is a bold move and a sensible move, even though it may not deliver all that Mr Hague hopes. In the short term, a convincing victory (which is all but assured) will make arguments about the single currency in Bournemouth seem stale...

A referendum victory will allow Mr Hague to confirm that, from now on, this is the one issue upon which he will not budge. Last autumn's waverings, when he shifted from "not for ten years" to "not for the foreseeable future" and back again...

Mr Hague has also chosen the right question to put to his members. The policy of opposing EMU at the next general election, which is the issue on the ballot, is neater and more persuasive than "no membership for ten years", which sounded oddly arbitrary and which, logically, was going to have to lose a year as each one passed.

The new clarity will make it easier for Mr

Hague to turn the next election into a referendum on EMU membership. That may well be his strongest card. For this is the one issue on which the Conservatives still have the upper hand over Labour. Even if the gap is shrinking, voters still oppose Britain joining a single currency...

Mr Hague's opponents argue that his stance is too inflexible. But it is hard to see what events could occur in the near future that would make the single currency suddenly look attractive. However "successful" EMU may appear in its first year or two, it has to be tested, as the Tory leader rightly says, in good times and bad...

The Tory leader would be mistaken, however, to draw too many optimistic parallels with Mr Blair. Yesterday he described divisions over Europe as a "legacy of the past". Unfortunately for him, and unlike Clause Four, the EMU debate is very much one of the present and the future. The other critical difference is that Mr Blair was taking on opponents who were both unpopular and on the extreme of his party...

Mr Hague is still right to pull this rabbit from his hat. Even if it does not solve all his European problems, it will entrench his policy and strengthen his leadership.

MAD SHEEP SCARE

The public must learn to understand the language of risk

The man who cries fire in a crowded theatre is rightly considered a cad, unless of course he really has seen a wisp of smoke drifting under the curtain. But it is far less easy to categorise the scientific whistle-blowers who add almost daily to the burden of risk the public has to bear...

Professor Almond is no wild scaremonger. He is one of a limited number of scientists who specialise in the spongiform encephalopathies, the group of diseases to which pathies, BSE and CJD belong. As chairman scrapie, BSE and CJD belong. As chairman of the sheep sub-committee of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, he is under an obligation, should he perceive a risk, to convey it to the public...

So far, there is none. It takes two years, and £30,000, to test each animal for BSE. So far only nine such tests have been done, all far only nine such tests have been done, all far only nine such tests have been done...

it could infect sheep and could behave differently from classical scrapie, which has been prevalent in Britain's flocks for two centuries without jumping to man.

If that were the case, it would indeed be a cause for alarm. Eliminating scrapie has proved to be impossible. So a form of BSE in sheep would be an even more daunting problem than BSE in cattle, especially as the agent is found in more tissues in sheep than it is in cows...

But there are contrary arguments. Sheep do not find bonemeal as palatable as cattle, so ate much less of it in the 1980s, when it was contaminated with the agent of BSE. And lamb is eaten young, giving a much shorter time for the disease to develop. Statistics of scrapie do not show any evidence of a recent increase.

On balance, then, Professor Almond presents a powerful case for more research, but no reason for panic. Given the long history of misplaced reticence and outright misrepresentation over BSE in the early 1990s, to censure him for telling what he believes to be the truth would be wrong. But experts should guard their words carefully, and the public, in return, should try to learn the language of risk so that it can understand better what the experts really mean.



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE. September 7: The Duke of Edinburgh... BUCKINGHAM PALACE. September 7: The Duke of York...

Birthdays today

Sir John D.K. Brown, company director, 85; Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, composer, 64; Miss Anne Diamond, broadcaster, 44; Mr Geoff Miller, cricket, 46; Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Newman, 62; Mr Jack Rosenthal, playwright, 67; Sir Harry Secombe, comedian, 77; Professor E.H. Snodgrass, mathematician, 75; Colonel James Stirling, soldier, 90; Lord Warner, 58; Mr A.B. Wilson, former Chief Commoner, 80.

Memorial service

Mr Arthur Rees. A memorial service for Arthur Rees will be held at St Mary's Parish Church, Stafford, on Friday, September 18, 1998, at 2pm.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.J.F. Bury and Miss N.L.E. Bridgewater. The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Bury, of Kingston Surrey, and Nancy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Adrian Bridgewater, of Great Eversden, Cambridgeshire...

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Ballinacorney, Aberdeenshire, at 2.20, to meet members of the community. The Queen will unveil plaques, marking the rebuilding of Ballinacorney Bridge in 1885, at 2.40.

Luncheon

Rotary Club of London. Mr John Buchanan, President of the Rotary Club of London, was in the chair at a luncheon held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Sir Kenneth Calman was the speaker.

Marriages

Mr R.A. Fenton-Sloane and Miss F.V. Davis. The marriage took place on August 22, at the Church of St John the Baptist, Somersham, of Robert, only son of Mr Michael Stone, of Ravensden, and Mrs Margaret Stone, of Hexham, and Faye, daughter of Mr and Mrs Terry Davis, of Somersham...

School announcements

The Arts Educational School, Tring Park

The Autumn Term begins today at the Arts Educational School, Tring Park. The Musical Theatre show Half a Sixpence will be performed on November 9-13.

Downe House, Berkshire

The Michaelmas Term starts today and will end with the final Carol Service at St Nicholas's Church, Newbury on Saturday, December 11.

Moira House, Eastbourne

Christmas Term begins today and ends on Tuesday, December 15. Mr David Ingham joins us on October 1 as Bursar in succession to Mr Adrian Underwood who has been appointed National Director of the Boarding Schools Association from January 1, 1999.

Edgely Hall, Devon

Term begins today with the new Pupil in Residence, Victoria Hoyle and Victoria Hoyle will be an Open Morning for prospective pupils and their parents on Saturday, September 26.

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King's School, Rochester

Michaelmas Term at King's School Rochester begins today. N. Velamuri will be Head of School, B.C. Bourne, C.A.A. Jazm and E.C. Smith will be Vice Heads of School.

Birkdale School, Sheffield

The school year begins today, with 810 pupils in the school. Robert Court, M.A. has now taken up his post as Headmaster.

King's Grammar School

Term begins today with the new Headmaster, Joanna Alexander, and Vice-Captains Lucy Greaves and Jamie Bottomley.

Northbourne Park Preparatory School, Kent

The Autumn Term began on Monday, September 7. Naomi Burrell is Head of School.

Blundell's School

The Autumn Term opens at Blundell's on September 9. There will be 470 pupils in the school.

The John Lyon School, Harrow

The Autumn Term starts today and ends on Friday, December 18. The Michaelmas term begins on Saturday, October 3 and Carol Concert on Thursday, December 17.

The Lady Eleanor Hollis School, Middlesex

Full term began on Thursday, September 3 with 910 girls in the school. The Head Girl is Charlotte Wootton and her Deputy are Jennifer Green and Lucy Palmer.

Charterhouse

The Michaelmas Term begins today. Mr Nicholas Durkin takes up his appointment as Clerk to the Governing Body and Bursar.

King's College School, Wimbledon

Term begins on Wednesday, September 9 at King's College School. Mr John Evans takes up the post of Headmaster of the Junior School following the retirement, after 22 years in the post, of Mr Colin Holloway.

Lytner Upper School, W6

The Autumn Term begins today at Lytner Upper School, and ends on December 16. Prize Giving is on October 23 when the Main Guest will be Sir Peter Hall, and Founders Day will be November 20.

St Dunstan's College

The Michaelmas Term starts today at St Dunstan's College. The Head of School is Richard Mitchell and the Captain of Rugby is Laurence Reave.

Wycombe Abbey School

The Autumn Term at Wycombe Abbey School begins on Wednesday, September 9. Mrs Pauline Davies assumes the post of Headmistress.

The Portsmouth Grammar School

Term begins today at The Portsmouth Grammar School. Mr Paul Smith is currently Head of Science at Hailsham Grammar School, Sussex.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: King Richard I, reigned 1189-99, Oxford, 1157; Ludovico Ariosto, poet, Reggio Emilia, Italy, 1474; August Wilhelm von Schlegel, poet, Hanover, 1767; John Leyden, physician and poet, Denon, Borders, 1725; Leon Faucher, statesman, Limoges, 1803; Frederic Mistral, poet, Nobel laureate 1904, Maillane, near Avignon, France, 1830; Antonin Dvorak, composer, Nelahozeves, Czechoslovakia, 1841; W.W. Jacobs, short story writer, Wapping, 1863; Alfred Jarry, writer, Le Havre, France, 1873; Siegfried Sassoon, poet and novelist, Broadway, Kent, 1898; Hendrik Verwoerd, President of South Africa 1958-66, Amsterdam, 1901; Peter Sellers, actor, Southsea, 1919.

Appointments

Lord Vestey has been appointed Master of the Horse from January 1, 1999, upon the retirement of Lord Somerleyton.

Appointments in the RAF

GROUP CAPTAIN P.P. Gasford, MOD, 1,998; P.M. Miles, MOD, 1,998; A. Desriver, MOD Abdn, 1,998; J.R. Bony, HQ STJ, 4,998.

Church news

The Rev. Suzie Ellis, NSM Curate, South Elmham and Ickehall (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich) has been appointed Curate, Worlingham in Barnby and North Cove, and Bodles (same diocese).

PERSONAL COLUMN

Appointments in the RAF

GROUP CAPTAIN P.P. Gasford, MOD, 1,998; P.M. Miles, MOD, 1,998; A. Desriver, MOD Abdn, 1,998; J.R. Bony, HQ STJ, 4,998.

BMDs: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 9872 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

MARCUS - On 4th September 1998 to Mary (née Leslie) and Robert, a daughter. BUCKENHAM - See Fraser. CONGRIEVE - On September 3rd to Amanda (née Lawson) and Ralph, a beautiful daughter...

DEATHS

BREWSTER - Rear Admiral CMBR, died suddenly at home in Enniskerry on Saturday September 6th. Dearly beloved husband of Mrs. A. Brewster. Burial service at St Anne's Church, HM Naval Base, Gosport, on Monday September 14th followed by private interment.

BIRTHS

MICHAEL - On September 6th at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to James and Heather, a daughter, Miss Abigail Nicole.

DEATHS

DAVIES - Paul Frederick, beloved husband of Jane, passed away suddenly on 2nd September 1998. Funeral service on Friday September 11th at 11.00am at St Peter's and the English Martyrs Church, Lower Goswell Road, Westminster. 11.00am.

BIRTHS

FRASER - On August 14th to Joanne and Simon, a son, Robert Campbell Buckenham, a brother for Charles and Ben.

DEATHS

HUGHES - On September 2nd at the Portland Hospital to Dawn and Jack, a son, Thomas Joseph, a brother to Philippa, Max and Zolt.

BIRTHS

NEWELL - On 4th September, 1998, at home, Professor Charles Kempall, CBE, F.R.S., retired and leaving husband of Kay, devoted father of John and Sylvia, died peacefully on Friday 11th September at 8.00pm. Burial service at 10.30am at St. Columba's Hospital, Bonwell Road, Edinburgh.

DEATHS

KINSKY - Alfie, on 2nd September, 1998, in Switzerland in his 86th year, after a long illness for 26 years of Mesothelioma, father of Cyril and Marie Pauline; father-in-law of Natasha and Donald Mackintosh, and eight lovely grandchildren. Funeral private, Requiem Mass at 11.00am at St. Andrew's Church, Edinburgh, on Friday 11th September at 12.30pm.

BIRTHS

MARPLE - Bryan Ashley aged 52, devoted husband of Cheryl and beloved father of 2 sons, died peacefully with his family on Monday 1st September at 3.00pm. Burial service at 11.00am on Monday 22nd September at 11.00am. No flowers please but if wished donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund in memory of John. Memorial service to be held later.

DEATHS

ROCK - Barbara, beloved wife, mother, friend and cousin, died on 3rd September at the Royal Free Hospital. Her funeral service will be held at 11.00am on Friday September 11th at 11.00am. No flowers please but if wished donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund in memory of John. Memorial service to be held later.

BIRTHS

STUART - Alexander George (Alan), on September 6th, in his 83rd year, peacefully at home. Loving and much loved by his family and friends. Funeral Eucharist at 11.00am on Monday 21st September, followed by private interment. Family flowers only please. Donations to The Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Deaf, Norfolk Deaf Association, c/o Peter Taylor Ltd, 85 Unbank Road, Norwich, NR2 2PE.

BUCKENHAM - See Fraser. CONGRIEVE - On September 3rd to Amanda (née Lawson) and Ralph, a beautiful daughter...

FRASER - On August 14th to Joanne and Simon, a son, Robert Campbell Buckenham, a brother for Charles and Ben.

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Advertisements for services including flight services, fare savers, and travel agencies with contact information and prices.

Large advertisement at the bottom of the page featuring Arabic calligraphy and promotional text.



OBITUARIES

GERALD LITTLEWOOD

Gerald Littlewood, first Director of Music of Chetham's School of Music, Manchester, died on September 1 aged 70. He was born on September 7, 1927.

When Gerald Littlewood joined the small team of teachers striving to re-establish the Manchester Bluecoat school of Chetham's Hospital shortly after the war, no one could have foreseen that the venture would subsequently develop into the internationally renowned Chetham's School of Music.

The Manchester teaching post was Gerald Littlewood's first after completing his own education at Audenshaw Grammar School and Loughborough Training College. At the time, music was only a hobby for him, though a hobby and increasingly a passionate one, and he was in fact appointed to Chetham's as a resident art and handicrafts master.

The school boasts some of the finest architecture in Manchester, some of it 15th-century. But its site near the city centre is narrowly hemmed in by the railway station and the cathedral, and by a constant stream of traffic. Until a not too distant sports ground eventually became available, there was no opportunity for the games which foster team spirit in other schools. In their absence, music became an important part of life at Chetham's, a creative activity capable of providing a social cement in many ways more potent than the competitive ethos of the sportsfield, and one whose growing success brought its own access of pride.

In the early days the staff was a mere trio, with only a handful of pupils, and Littlewood was for some time a lone figure in the musical life of the school, which lacked even a resident pianist. Gradually, however, he won the interest and support of his colleagues, of the cathedral organist Norman Cocker, and of an enterprising body of governors.

Starting with a few violins (he was himself a violinist), he went on to establish a full orchestra. Music festivals followed, and before long the music being made at Chetham's was attracting the attention of the outside world, particularly of local authorities and their music advisers. In 1969, two decades after the school was reopened, Chetham's declared itself a school of music.



Littlewood at his workbench: the instruments he made combined fine craftsmanship with purity of tone

Littlewood was a craftsman who never had time to seek out a sheaf of paper qualifications in music. Instead he used his manual skills to make his own stringed instruments (only the double bass escaped his attention). He was also capable of making convincing essays in playing virtually any orchestral instrument — and for a time he had to do just that, until external tutors (from the Halle and the then BBC Northern Orchestra) were called into giving the school the benefit of their expertise. As well as a talented instrumental player, Littlewood was a considerable singer and took the greatest pride in his choral work.

The school, in response to the changing educational imperatives of the time, had already cleared one hurdle by becoming a full-scale grammar school, with serious aspirations in the arts and sciences. Now it set about tackling another, by using its accumulated expertise to become a dedicated school of music, preparing pupils for specialist further study at the universities and music colleges.

Littlewood's efforts received notable support from the headmaster, Harry Vickers, who, although no musician himself, yet had the necessary vision and drive to steer the school through its most difficult period of transition.

The school had shown itself capable of mounting complete productions of Britten's church parables, and the smaller-scale stage works of Stravinsky — with Littlewood more often than not accounting for scenery and production as well as conducting. Soon pupils began to go on to professional musical careers. Among the many who have attained distinction are the pianist Peter Donohoe; the mezzo-soprano Louise Winter; the organist and conductor Wayne Marshall; and David Hill, now Master of Music at Winchester Cathedral.

With his official appointment as the school's first director of music, Littlewood found that his original art and craft work had to give way to the endless demands of performance, administration, teaching, auditioning and even composition. But he never abandoned his dedication to the crafting of stringed instruments, and he showed rare skill in combining the demands of aesthetics with eloquence of tone and finesse of construction.

For all his artistry, he found artistic pretensions quite alien and abhorrent. Not for him the pained exclamation of one music tutor that "I am not a teacher! I am an artist!" In his case it would have been exactly the other way round.

When he retired to the North Wales coast, it was to take infinite, even naive, pleasure in the local manifestations of Gilbert and Sullivan, the music of pier pavilion and brass band and salon singer, as much as in the chamber music he so enjoyed until the weakness induced by cancer made it impossible for him to continue.

He had a phenomenal memory for names and people, able to conjure up at an instant the faces, characters and exploits of his pupils over the years, and he kept in touch with the progress of most of them.

He is survived by his wife Audrey, and by a daughter and a stepson. His voice will continue to sound through the instruments he made.

SIR DAVID HOLDEN

Sir David Holden, KBE, CB, ERD, former head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, died on August 31 aged 83. He was born on July 26, 1915.



Holden: career in the Northern Ireland Civil Service

TROOPS had not long moved onto the streets of Northern Ireland, in an effort to control the mayhem which coloured the early years of the recent Troubles, when David Holden succeeded to the top post in the Civil Service there in 1970. He ran it for the next six turbulent years, throughout the decline and fall of the old Stormont Government, into the era of direct rule from Westminster.

William Whitelaw and Merlyn Rees were among the Northern Ireland Secretaries he worked with, while in 1973 he was one of only two Northern Ireland civil servants to be present at the Sunningdale conference.

Holden spent his entire career not only in the Northern Ireland Civil Service but in its finance department, which was more all-embracing than the British Treasury, covering also such areas as planning (in which Holden took a great interest) and public works. On the former Whitehall pattern, he was Permanent Secretary throughout the time that he headed the Civil Service at Stormont, and he was said at one time to be the only person who understood the Byzantine relationship between Ulster and the Treasury in Great Britain.

David Charles Beresford Holden, an Englishman by birth, was born in Wolverhampton, the son of an army chaplain who was killed in action in the First World War when his son was not yet three. Brought up by his widowed mother, the young Holden went from a preparatory school in Kent to be a boarder at Rossall School in Lancashire. He then went on to take a double first in classics at King's College, Cambridge, before moving to Stormont Castle in 1937.

A member of the Territorial Army, he was mobilised in 1939 to serve with the 8th (Belgian) Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, an all-volunteer unit which shortly afterwards embarked for France with the British Expeditionary Force.

The regiment returned to Britain before Dunkirk and, after retraining, left for India and Burma.

In 1943 Holden was serving as brigade major with the 1st Anti-Aircraft Brigade in Calcutta, but he later rejoined his regiment as the Allies began to push the Japanese into full retreat across Burma. The regiment, used in a field artillery role, earned its nickname "the 12-Mile Snipers" because of the accuracy of its gunners as they fired over the heads of their own troops at the fleeing enemy.

It returned to Belfast as a complete unit after the war, and Holden was briefly promoted to acting lieutenant-colonel as the senior officer in charge while the men were demobilised. He then went back to the Northern Ireland Civil Service, where for many years afterwards he was known as "Major Holden". He was awarded the Emergency Reserve Decoration in 1954 and appointed CB in 1963.

Bullet-proof windows and a radio-telephone were fitted to his home in South Belfast during the Troubles. But Holden, who was appointed KBE in

1972, the first year of direct rule, rejected the offer of personal protection, saying that the security forces were already fully stretched.

He retired in 1976 but then, to help out during an interregnum, served as director of the old Ulster Office in London (which at one time dealt with such interests as tourism and industry) for a further 12 months. After that, still a youthful-looking, vigorous 62-year-old, he resettled in Wiltshire, where he devoted his time to his family and the local church.

David Holden was a man of his time — a model of discretion and loyalty who provided strong leadership for Ulster's permanent cadre of public administrators when this was most called for. He was acknowledged to be the perfect civil servant.

He first met his wife Jean while on leave during the war near Darjeeling, where she was then living with her parents. They were married for 50 years and David Holden, who died in hospital from pneumonia after a short illness, is survived by her and by a son and daughter.

THE REV RAYMOND BROWN

The Rev Raymond Brown, biblical scholar, died in California on August 8 aged 70. He was born on May 22, 1928.

WHEN, in 1971, Raymond Brown questioned whether it is historically possible to prove the virgin conception of Jesus Christ, he was attacked by a number of Roman Catholic conservatives. But as a man of great intellectual integrity, Brown always said that the Church must learn to accommodate facts and evidence that may at first be uncomfortable. He believed that advances in knowledge resulting from biblical and historical scholarship,

or from archaeological discoveries such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, could not be ignored.

As he saw it, we are living in a period of major theological development, when account must be taken of knowledge that was not available to earlier generations. This knowledge may make it hard for some people to believe in the Christian story, but the Church will not help itself by trying to offer an alternative reality in defiance of science and secular discoveries. He was part of the first generation of American Catholics to respond to Pope Pius XII's encyclical *Divino Afflante Spiritu*, which in 1943 freed scholars to

use critical historical methods to study the Bible.

Yet at the same time Brown realised that the very rigidity of traditional doctrine within the Church made it hard for some Catholics to accept that past conceptions might need to be abandoned in the interests of truth.

Raymond Brown was born in New York, but his family moved to Florida when he was a teenager. Following his theological training and ordination as a priest in the Society of St Sulpice in 1953, he was awarded a fellowship to work on the Dead Sea Scrolls in Jerusalem. There, during the year 1958-59, he helped with

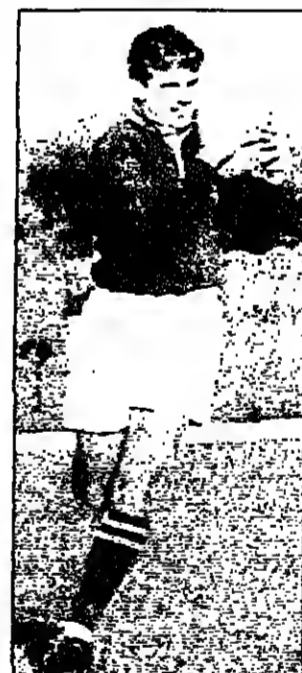
the preparation of a concordance to some of the texts.

He next went on to teach at St Mary's Seminary in Baltimore until 1971. He then became a professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City — the first tenured Catholic in what was historically a Protestant institution. He remained there until his retirement in 1990.

His scholarly reputation was based primarily on his two-volume Anchor Bible commentary on *The Gospel According to John*, which appeared in 1966 and 1970. His other major works were *The Birth of the Messiah* (1977), a commentary on

KEITH OXLEE

Keith Oxlee, former South African rugby player, died on August 31 aged 63, after complications following a replacement hip operation. He was born in Durban on December 17, 1934.



Oxlee's points total against the British Isles still stands

A SPRINGBOK fly half and goalkicker whose record points total against the British Isles still stands, Keith Oxlee visited Britain and Ireland with the South African rugby union tour parties of 1960 and 1965. He was far more than the kicking fly half with which his country's game has sometimes been associated. The fact that his tally of 88 points in 19 internationals included five tries indicates as much; but his true value was as an all-round player in attack and defence.

Many fly halves are found out under pressure, but his contemporaries testify to the compact Oxlee's courage in such circumstances. "When you had Oxlee as your fly half, you knew that all would be well," said John Gainsford, who played alongside him during the 1960s. "He took the knocks and he never gave me anything but clean ball. He would rather take the heat than pass it on to team-mates. That, for me, was the mark of greatness."

Oxlee was educated at Maritzburg College and developed his game with Durban Collegians. He played all his provincial rugby for Natal between 1955 and 1971, but did not break into the Springbok team until the summer of 1960, against Wilson Whineray's touring

New Zealanders. In that four-match series he scored two tries, but it was not until the tour to Britain later that year that Oxlee began his international goal-kicking career.

Injury to Dick Lockyear, the team's vice-captain, forced Oxlee to take over the kicking duties against Wales in dreadful conditions at Cardiff. The rain was so heavy that late in the game the touchlines were obliterated, and the following day the River Taff burst its banks and flooded the ground.

But Oxlee, after missing two earlier attempts, kicked the penalty goal which was the only score of the match.

The high point of his international career came against Arthur Smith's Lions in 1962. After the first international was drawn, Oxlee won the second meeting with another solitary penalty in Durban. A fortnight later, in Cape Town, he scored all the points in South Africa's 8-3 win, and he doubled that effort in Bloemfontein when South Africa won 34-14.

Oxlee's 16 points, from five conversions and two penalties — seven goals from eight attempts in a swirling wind — remain a record in the longstanding series between the Springboks and the Lions. When his international career ended, he had accumulated 88 points in Test Matches — more than any previous player in South Africa's history — and scored 203 points in all appearances in the green jersey.

But far more significant was his contribution towards attacking play during a decade when negative tactics dominated the game. He tended towards the unorthodox, for club, province and even country, despite the inclination of South African selectors towards a conservative game dominated by massive forwards.

Oxlee worked for a wallpaper company in Durban and subsequently was a representative for an industrial chemicals company.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, and by a son and daughter.

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PUBLIC NOTICES
AMN COMBENT last known at 15

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COURT & SOCIAL
FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

LEGAL NOTICES
Gordon Thompson Solicitor

ANNOUNCEMENTS
YOUNG CHARLES BRIDGE club

COURT & SOCIAL
FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

LEGAL NOTICES
Gordon Thompson Solicitor

CAPT C.B. FRY ON THIS DAY
September 8, 1956
Captain C. B. Fry, who died yesterday in London at the age of 84, was known in his school and university days as the finest all-round athlete of his time.

Churchill's are the only stairlift company I trust and I thoroughly recommend them to you

NEWS

Hague orders snap ballot on EMU

William Hague called a snap ballot of Conservative Party members to endorse his policy of ruling out British membership of the single currency for this Parliament and the next.

He brought to a head the internal dispute that has again threatened to wreak havoc at the annual conference, by ordering a vote that will leave his pro-European critics out on a limb.

Duma flexes its muscle as rouble falls

Russia lurched further into political and economic crisis yesterday when parliament overwhelmingly rejected President Yeltsin's candidate for Prime Minister and the chairman of the country's central bank resigned as the rouble continued its decline.

Man Utd summons

The directors of Manchester United have been summoned to an urgent meeting to consider BSKYB's proposed takeover, amid opposition from fans and the likelihood of an Office of Fair Trading investigation.

Not lost in vain

The Queen will learn of a mother's remarkable response on losing all three of her sons, two of them in action during the Second World War.

Trimble breaks taboo

David Trimble broke one of Unionism's biggest taboos by speaking directly to Gerry Adams.

Tory dissent

Pro-European Tories angrily dismissed William Hague's snap ballot on a single currency as a political stunt and reasserted their opposition to his European policy.

The riskiest sport

Riding a water-slide is one of the most dangerous leisure activities in Britain.

Cruising for votes

Gerhard Schröder, the four-times married contender for the leadership of Germany, is wooing gay voters.

Boy saved father

A boy aged 11 worked to keep his injured father alive for four hours when they were trapped in a flooded cave.

Christians sorry

A group of 16 Western volunteers are in Lebanon to apologise to Arabs for the atrocities committed by Crusaders.

The upper crusty

A Tory councillor spent a week living as an "upper crusty" for a new BBC series.

Decisive week

President Yeltsin now has one week to decide whether to make the Russian parliament head on and force a crucial third vote on Viktor Chernomyrdin's candidacy as Prime Minister, or choose between three or four alternative figures.

Education failure

Testing children's grasp of the three Rs in primary school is unlikely to remedy failings in education, the President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science said.

Clinton told to go

President Clinton, who is being undermined more effectively by so-called friends than by political opponents, has now been told to resign by the head of his church.

Poor using NHS less

Fewer poor people are seeing their doctors and dentists than five years ago, the National Consumer Council says.

Fears of Spice Baby epidemic

Fears of an epidemic of "Spice Babies" born to low-achieving teenagers were raised by the headmistress who speaks for secondary schools. Judith Mullen, president of the Secondary Heads Association, said she was concerned that hundreds of teenage devotees of the Spice Girls would be tempted to follow Scary and Posh to the antenatal clinic.



Hair-raising: electrotrichogenesis, a process to help baldness, being launched at Manor House Hospital in North London

BUSINESS

Boeing: The beleaguered aircraft giant admitted it had been too arrogant, too distracted and too self-satisfied in a surprising display of contrition at the Farnborough International Air Show.

SPORT

Football: Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, faces questioning from the Football Association over his contractual plans, his links with Eileen Drewery, the faith healer, and his book.

ARTS

Good start: English National Opera opens its new season with a revival of David Pountney's stunning production of Dvorak's Rusalka.

FEATURES

Virgin battle: In the second extract from his autobiography, Richard Branson tells of his search for evidence in his fight against British Airways and his outraged reaction to the questions of the talk show host Clive Anderson.

MARKETS

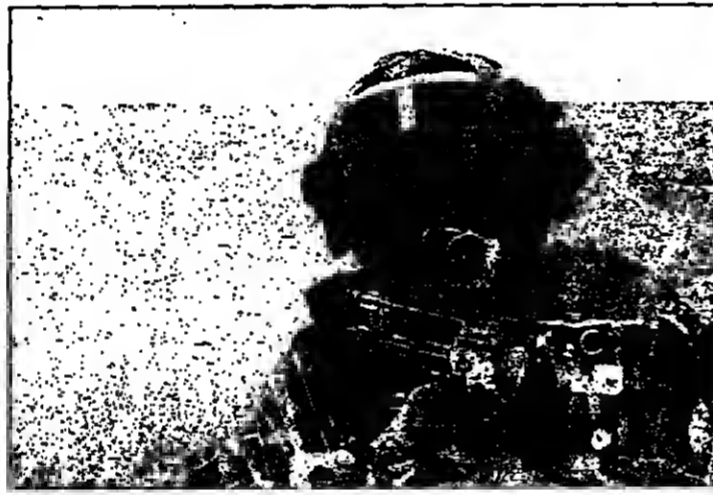
The FTSE-100 index rose 180.0 points to close at 5347.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 104.3 to 103.4 after a fall from \$1.6736 to \$1.6685 and from DM2.9029 to DM2.8795.

RACING

Sea Wave, 11-0 favourite when the Tote opened its book, was switched from the St Leger to the Prix Niel at Longchamp on Sunday.

FUNNY MAN

The comedian Jasper Carrott proves that he can still command a large, multigenerational following, as his lengthy national tour reaches the Swan in High Wycombe.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE: How technology makes military manoeuvres more deadly. Plus, can computers damage your health?

HOMES

Market slowdown may become a meltdown

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,891

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27.

- ACROSS: 1 Catches fish in special nets (9). 6 Fired workers united in display of insolence (3,2). 9 Living space a little restricted in Derby, say (7). 10 He leaves engineers to fit exhaust before run (7). 12 Quiet, without hooter going about one (9). 13 Tough lawman having occasion to trap drivers (5). 14 A rehousing of his parcel round (9). 17 Take rod to fish - that's plain (9). 18 Man talking on many an old serf (5). 19 Source of spiteful burden Queen placed on Snow White, perhaps (9). 22 Opening move executed to gain room for manoeuvre (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20890. HEDGEHOG PARCEL, ASSASSIN, ROMANIANS LEGAL, SHOCKED TROOPS, TYPING STATISM, POUNCER NUMERICAL, DABBLE IN APPLY, OVAL GALLERY, OPENER PREMIERE.

Times Two Crossword, page 52

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table with road conditions for UK, Ireland, and Europe.

Weather by Fax

Table with weather forecasts for various locations.

World City Weather

Table with weather forecasts for various world cities.

Motoring

Table with motoring information for various countries.

Car reports by fax

Table with car reports for various models.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with hours of darkness for various locations.

FORECAST

General: breezy and showery. London, SE England, E Anglia: rain clearing, sunny spells, showers later. Wind SW, moderate to fresh. Max 22C (72F).

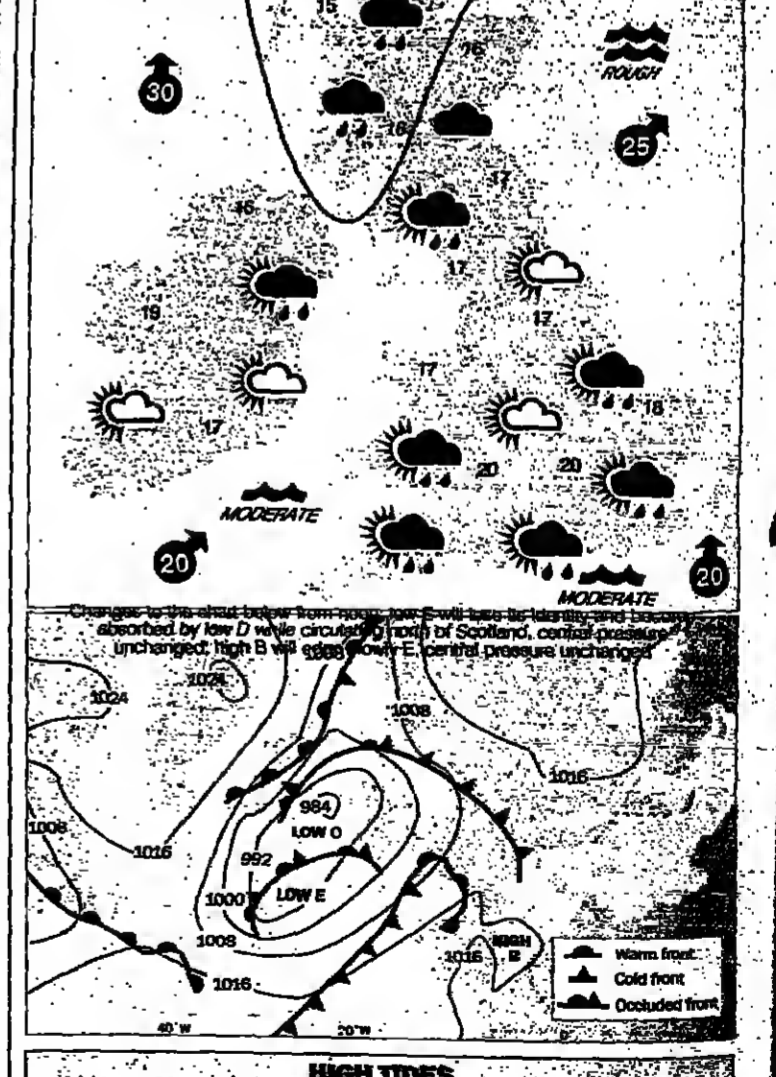
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with weather data for various locations around Britain yesterday.

ABROAD

Table with weather forecasts for various international locations.

NOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES

Table with high tide times for various locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Prestatyn, North Wales, 24C (75F); lowest day temp: 13C (55F); highest rainfall: Penzance, Cornwall, 0.1in; highest sunshine: Eastbourne.

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Large advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Share', 'amid', 'HK', and 'Boeing's decline on'.

INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



**ECONOMICS**  
Anatole Kaletsky on a silver lining to bear market cloud  
**PAGE 31**



**LAW**  
The dangers of dropping trial by jury  
**PAGE 39, 41**



**SPORT**  
Last chance to sign up for our £100,000 game  
**PAGE 46, 47**

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
Pages 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 1998

## Moves to fight currency speculators boost equity markets

# Shares rally amid tough HK reforms

FROM ALASDAIR MURRAY IN HONG KONG AND JANET BUSH IN LONDON

INVESTORS in Hong Kong and London yesterday gave strong support to stringent measures taken in the former colony to curb speculators and improve banking liquidity. Economists said the reforms, which were introduced yesterday by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA), could prove to be the vital "turning point" in Hong Kong's battle to preserve its currency peg with the US dollar.

The Hang Seng rose by 588.3 points, or 8 per cent, to close at 8,076.7. With banking stocks including the dual-listed HSBC enjoying strong rises, the turnaround brought an 180-point rise in the FTSE 100 to 5,347. Though New York was closed for Labor Day, there was encouraging news from all over the world.

Kwok Chuen-kuok, chief economist at Standard Chartered in Hong Kong, said the reforms would help to break the "vicious circle" that has seen short selling attacks on the currency peg forcing interest rates higher and raising the risk premium on borrowing by the local banking sector.

The effect has been to further weaken the already-struggling local economy and conspicuously encourage fresh speculation against the Hong Kong dollar peg.

Under Hong Kong's new system, the amount speculators will have to wager to force a rise in interest rates will be greatly increased from HK\$2 billion (£155 million) to HK\$32 billion due to changes in the way that the Special Administrative Region's inter-bank market functions.

The HKMA has also given

the banks a convertibility undertaking, guaranteeing that it will exchange all money in the clearing accounts into US dollars at a rate of HK\$7.75.

Chi Lo, senior international economist at HSBC, said: "The measures have helped create more breathing space for the hard-pressed banks and property sector but the risk premium will remain high and will not entirely curb the speculative threat."

Some analysts warned that the new measures could prove to be the first step towards the introduction of capital controls. However, Donald Tsang, Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, insisted yesterday that he had no intention of imposing capital controls although there could be further

measures to curb speculators in the coming days.

Elsewhere in the region, Malaysia, which last week dismayed the international investment community by reintroducing exchange controls and curbs on stock market speculation, reaped a dramatic early dividend from its risky new policy. Shares jumped by nearly 20 per cent as local buyers piled back into the market.

Shares linked to prominent supporters of the Malaysian Government were the biggest winners following rumours that the country is to launch a public spending spree to bolster its ailing economy.

Buying was not confined to Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur with strong gains in

other Asian markets. In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 index closed more than 5 per cent higher despite the inconclusiveness of the weekend's meeting between Kijichi Miyazawa, Japan's Finance Minister, and Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary.

Shares worldwide rallied largely in response to remarks made on Friday by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, suggesting that the Fed is sufficiently concerned about the severity of the world crisis to contemplate cutting US interest rates.

This led to aggressive selling of the dollar yesterday. The US currency slid to its lowest level for four months against the yen and for 9½ months against the mark.

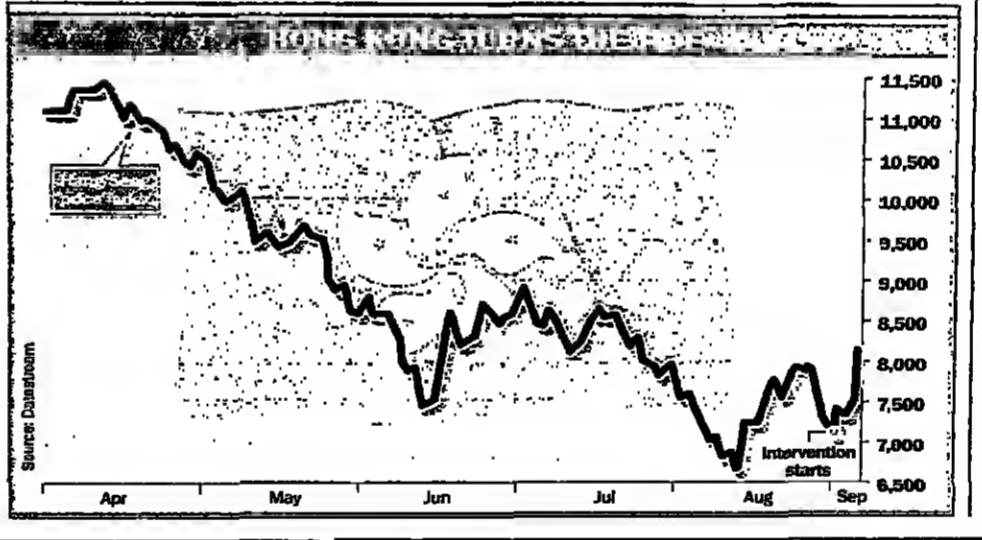
Sterling slid in sympathy with the dollar, dropping below DM2.8700 at one point before rallying to close at DM2.8788, as speculation mounted that UK rates may follow American rates lower at some stage. With the Monetary Policy Committee meeting this week, a Merrill Lynch Gallup poll of UK fund managers yesterday found 98 per cent saying that the next move in base rates will be down.

Analysts were still concerned about bad news from Russia. The Duma yesterday voted for the second time to reject Viktor Chernomyrdin as Russian Prime Minister and Sergei Dubinin, head of Russia's Central Bank resigned.

The Group of Seven yesterday confirmed that senior foreign and finance ministry officials will meet in London on Saturday to discuss the Russian crisis.



Donald Tsang has raised the stakes for those attacking Hong Kong's US dollar peg



## Booker confirms Budgens takeover talks

BY FRASER NELSON

BOOKER has confirmed that it is in merger talks with Budgens, and is in the final stages of creating a £550 million company led by John von Spreckelsen.

The food conglomerate, which was in merger talks with Somerfield until 11 days ago, is understood to be negotiating a reverse takeover of Budgens in an all-share deal.

Mr von Spreckelsen, chief executive of Budgens, would assume the role of company doctor and sell off Booker's salmon, chicken and food processing divisions. This would create a food wholesaling and retailing group with £5 billion in annual sales.

Booker said it had been talking to Mr von Spreckelsen long before David Simons, chief executive of Somerfield, made his approach. Somerfield broke off talks after going into the due diligence stage.

Although the talks with Budgens have been an open secret in the City since last week, shares of both companies fell yesterday.

Sally Jones, analyst at Crédit Lyonnais, said: "Booker is heavily geared, and if trading has deteriorated — as everyone expects — they will be in a very difficult position."

An analyst said: "If Budgens manages to make Booker more competitive it will only be helping its rival process. Budgens should stick to expanding in convenience retailing."

Other analysts said that Budgens has already seen Booker's balance sheet and would have withdrawn from talks if there was any danger of defaulting on the banking covenants. Booker said there is very little geographical overlap with Budgens.

Mr von Spreckelsen was brought into Budgens six years ago, after turning round a troubled grocery company in Germany.

## BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5347.0 (+180.0)
Yield	3.12%
FTSE All Share	2470.19 (+73.25)
Nikkei	14790.06(+747.16)
New York	
Dow Jones	Closed
S&P Composite	Closed
US RATE	
Federal Funds	Closed (5.25%)
Long bond	Closed (103 1/8)
Yield	(5.28%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-mth interbank	7 1/8% (7.8%)
Life long gilt	
future (Dec)	112.62 (112.26)
STERLING	
New York	Closed (1.6721)
London	
\$	1.5891 (1.5732)
DM	2.8782 (2.8223)
FF	8.6224 (8.7313)
Sfr	2.3549 (2.3814)
Yen	819.78 (224.77)
\$ Index	103.4 (104.30)
DOLLAR	
London	
DM	Closed (1.7350)
FF	(5.8030)
Sfr	(133.55)
Yen	(133.55)
\$ Index	109.8 (110.8)
Tokyo close Yen 132.03	
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent15-day(Nov)	\$13.35 (\$13.55)
GOLD	
London close	\$287.25 (\$285.55)

## Tab offers Wallis a chance for millions

BY PAUL DURMAN

STUART WALLIS, the former chief executive of Fisons, has been given the chance to make millions from Therapeutic Antibodies, the small biotech company where he became chairman last week.

Mr Wallis's contract entitles him to be paid up to 10 per cent of the increase in TAB's market value. If TAB could recover the £12 million valuation it had on flotation two years ago, Mr Wallis could receive an estimated £28 million.

A spokeswoman for TAB, which has developed anti-venom for treating snakebites, suggested shareholders would be happy to reward Mr Wallis if he could produce a recovery in a price that has slumped from 52½p at flotation to 86½p.

However, Mr Wallis has joined TAB with the biotechnology sector out of favour. TAB has been among the worst hit because it is a little-understood company based in Nashville and reports in dollars. Mr Wallis is planning to move the company to London.

Moreover, biotech shares can recover quickly and there are some signs that investor confidence is returning. Vanguard Medica has almost doubled in six weeks, while Celltech and Cortecs have both recently bounced 50 per cent from their lows.

Mr Wallis will receive the full 10 per cent if TAB's share price outperforms three-quarters of the other constituents of the FTSE small cap index.

## Boeing's chief blames decline on 'arrogance'

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BOEING, the beleaguered aviation industry giant, yesterday admitted the company had been "too arrogant, too distracted or too self-satisfied".

In a surprising display of contrition at the Farnborough International Air Show Harry Stonecipher, president and chief operating officer, said: "We've let down many commercial airplane customers through late deliveries, that's not tolerable or acceptable."

Mr Stonecipher was speaking as Airbus, Boeing's arch-rival, was basking as star of the air show. Airbus has overtaken Boeing in orders and last month beat it to a prestigious British Airways contract.

Boeing plunged to a \$178 million (£107 million) loss for last year and sacked Ron Woodard, its head of civil aircraft op-

erations. Mr Stonecipher denied that Mr Woodard had been a scapegoat.

"Mr Woodard did not perform. I do not believe in sacrificial lambs," he said.

Mr Stonecipher said Boeing would dispose of peripheral businesses but would stop short of selling big operations.

At Farnborough Boeing also sought to stem the increasing rivalry between European and US aerospace companies.

It said that more than half of the manufacturing of the 717 — a plane it inherited from McDonnell — would be executed by European companies. They include Italy's Alenia, Germany's BMW and the UK's Rolls-Royce.

Mr Stonecipher said that Boeing suppliers in Europe delivered 90,000 jobs.

Boeing supported one measure of good news at the air show with orders worth \$1.1 billion to the International Lease Finance Corporation and KLM, the Dutch carrier.



Stonecipher: frank admission

Airbus in China, page 28

## Robinson help for small firms

BY GEOFFREY ROBINSON

THE PAYMASTER General has set up a working group to consider problems facing smaller quoted companies in London (Martin Barrow writes).

Mr Robinson, who announced the new group at a CBI presentation last night, said the Treasury had identified "numerous financial and regulatory issues that cause concern" for smaller companies seeking to raise funds through the stock market.

The working group will be chaired by Derek Riches, of Merrill Lynch. His deputy is Brian Basham, chairman of Equity Development. The group has been established amid concern about dwindling institutional interest.

There are more than 2,000 smaller quoted companies outside the FTSE 350.

## Brown scraps extra tax plan for North Sea oil

BY GEORGE SIVELL

GORDON BROWN has effectively abandoned plans to raise more tax from North Sea oilfields just days before applications for the next round of oil licences were due to close.

The Chancellor blamed oil prices for his decision to call off the reform. He said: "The Government has been monitoring changes in oil prices and I have concluded that at the current low level of oil prices it would not be right at this stage to proceed with reform of the regime."

Plans for a so-called reform of North Sea oil taxes were first unveiled in the snap budget of July 1997 just after Labour took office. Then the oil price stood at more than \$20 a barrel at had traded above \$25 in the latter part of 1996.

North Sea oil is now trading

at about \$13 a barrel, leaving little room for explorers and producers to make a profit. The oil industry told the Government during the consultation stage of the oil tax regime that work on potentially large discoveries was grinding to a halt because of uncertainty over taxes and oil prices. One such project was Clair field, west of Shetland, which contains five billion barrels of oil and is ranked alongside the Brent and Forties fields in commercial importance.

Shares in the North Sea oil explorers and producers such as Lloyds and Enterprise have halved this year. Even shares in the leading producers such as BP and Shell, which sell petrol as well as explore for oil, are down 17 per cent.

Shares in BP rose 30p to 807p yesterday. Some of the specialist oil explorers also rose, notably Cairn Energy up 14p to 128p and British Burgeo, up 12½p to 252½p.



Brown: bad time for reform

Commentary, page 29

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# London waves in the breeze



**COMMENTARY**  
by our City Editor

Stock markets in the West are now firmly under the sway of what is happening in Asia and Russia, rather than what is happening at home. That turns life into an unpredictable switchback for investors.

Yesterday was a good day, thanks to Hong Kong. By August 28, its confident Government had won round one of its epic battle with the hedge funds, though at a heavy cost to reserves and to its non-interventionist reputation. Now it has launched a powerful offensive to start round two.

One flank was to crack down on rogue selling. The other was to use reserves to provide more back-up liquidity for banks within the currency board system. The Hang Seng index duly grew almost 8 per cent, up to its highest for two months. It appears to have managed that without the authorities having to buy shares, so adding to the profits the Monetary Authority has made in its role as a determined stock market investor. Left to its own devices on America's Labor Day holiday, London tipped its hat East. Even Tokyo managed a smile.

Fortunately, markets closed before Russia moved back up the agenda. The Duma voted to keep Russia without a proper government for a while. The Governor of the central bank finally resigned. The rouble fell.

Hurricane Boris will therefore continue to blow. Even in the unlikely event of Viktor Chernomyrdin winning in an embarrassing third and final vote, it is hard not to share the IMF's doubts about a policy that seeks to combine a haircut printing of banknotes to give everyone their pay with a rigid, Hong Kong-style, currency board to impose iron discipline on money supply.

Self-help in the rest of Asia, as well as Japan, is vital to avoiding recession in the West. But Russia will bellow bearish sentiments for some while. How different things would look if the other G7 countries gave clear signs of responding to the threat, instead of hanging out in the Eastern breeze. There is hope.

Alan Greenspan of the Federal Reserve Board makes statements so Delphic that listeners can usually hear what they want to hear. But, given his good record, markets were right to deduce that his new talk of balanced risks might mean a cut in US interest rates in October or November. His detailed intentions are not really important. All we need to know is that the Fed is taking the threat of induced recession seriously.

Would that one could say the same thing about the Bundesbank or members of the Monetary Policy Committee, our own kindergarten version of the Fed.

Almost unanimously, fund managers now expect the next move in base rates to be down. The shrieks of pain from exporters and trade unionists may have permeated, persuading the MPC to sympathise by making their first cut. Ironically, with the pound now sliding, this is a week when they could legitimately plead the need to wait and see.

## Ecstasy ahead for life-style drugs

Any day now, Viagra will receive approval from the UK drug licensing authorities, causing the National Health Service headaches that a bucket load of paracetamol could not cure. The over-stretched NHS will not be able to foot the bill to provide the drug to all who would like it and few would envy the medics who might be called

upon to determine those who have a legitimate medical need, and, therefore, might argue they deserve NHS subsidy.

The American experience has indicated that Pfizer is guaranteed huge sales, whether or not the state contributes to the cost. But while Pfizer rakes in unforeseen levels of profits from what started out as a potential cure for angina, other companies are being forced to address the tricky question of how far their resources should be diverted into what might be called life-style drugs.

Glaxo Wellcome had been working on a similar product to Viagra, with the aim of helping angina sufferers. When it became apparent that it did not work on angina, although it did have some interesting side-effects, Glaxo sold the project to an American company. It is at that stage Glaxo was influenced by the idea that pharmaceutical companies were in the business solely of treating illness, then it is

safe to say that that its thoughts are likely to have been changed by the Viagra experience.

If customers will pay for life-enhancing drugs, a whole range of new possibilities open up for the pharmaceuticals companies. Prozac is already being used by those who surely do not merit the description of being clinically depressed. How many more people might be interested in a mood-enhancing pill that came with the assurance that it had been manufactured by a world class pharmaceutical business?

In the wake of the Viagra success story, drug companies and their shareholders will have to confront that question and its implications. And so will the Government, for the NHS, already under pressure to fund an unprecedented level of treatment for an ever longer-living population, will face demands to add to the list of life-enhancing treatments that it will subsidise. It is currently seeking a band-

aid solution to the Viagra problem that it faces, possibly persuading all health authorities not to pay for the drug. Yet it now has the perfect opportunity to re-define the role of the NHS within its budgetary constraints. Life-style drugs should not come courtesy of the public purse.

## Brown slips on politicians' curse

Chancellor Gordon Brown has been forced to acknowledge a most depressing political fact: ideas that make sense behind the closed doors of the Treasury may look less than brilliant in the real world. When he came to power, Mr Brown thought it would be a jolly good wheeze to squeeze more money out of the oil companies making fortunes from the North Sea. Having grabbed his windfall tax from the privatised utilities, oil companies may have appeared another target for whom there would be scant public sympathy. But his plans for increasing the tax take have come up against a slump in the crude oil price and rising costs for those still intent on extracting the stuff

from inhospitable parts. With the next round of licences now on offer, the prospect of higher taxes was hardly an encouragement to bidders.

So Mr Brown has bowed to the politicians' curse, events, and abandoned his plans. It would have been helpful to oil companies if he had said as much. Announcing that he will not be reforming the tax regime "at this stage" still leaves an element of uncertainty hanging over the industry. But, without a significant increase in oil prices, he cannot now impose higher taxes on the oil companies.

That makes the burying of one Budget bright idea. Now, perhaps, Mr Brown might encourage his colleagues to take a look at another unrealistic proposal and put Lisa on ice.

## Dangerous diversion

FOR years Jonathan Taylor has been presiding over a sinking ship. After a string of profit warnings, he has now issued the May-day signal. David Simons looked at throwing him a lifeline but, understandably for someone with a cache of options to consider, he could only offer a short rope. Drowning men cannot meet their rescuers half way. The mystery is why John von Spreckelsen should now be attempting the rescue. The Budgets boss may be bored, but Booker could prove a dangerous diversion.

## Burmah tries to play down exposure to Asia

By MARTIN BARROW

BURMAH CASTROL, the lubricants company, sought to dispel fears over its exposure to ailing Asian economies yesterday. Despite a fall in first-half profits the company promised to go ahead with a proposed £250 million capital return to shareholders in 1999 and said it would maintain a progressive dividend policy. The company, whose shares have fallen from 113.30 to 92.0p since May, reported a 4 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to

£121.6 million for the six months to June 30.

Reported profits were adversely affected by currency translation and on a constant basis would have been 14 per cent higher than in the first half of the previous year.

Tim Stevenson, chief executive, said: "This was a robust performance in difficult markets. The improvement in operating profit reflects the extent to which good results from our principal business in most re-

gions have offset the sharp decline in consumer and industrial markets in South-East Asia."

The company's results were also affected by exceptional items, with profits from disposals partly offset by costs arising from the reorganisation of Castrol and the writing down of the value of a plant in Indonesia, leaving a net exceptional pre-tax profit of £30 million.

At the operating level report-

ed profits fell 7 per cent to £126 million but on a constant currency basis would have been 5 per cent up on the first half of the previous year. Castrol oil volumes rose 3 per cent.

Mr Stevenson said trading conditions had deteriorated most acutely in Malaysia, Thailand and Japan. "We have taken firm action to reduce costs in these countries and our operations there are achieving a good level of profitability, albeit at lower levels than in recent years." Marketing investment in China is being maintained.

In Europe and North America the industrial lubricants and principal chemicals businesses achieved good results and improving margins. However, the consumer lubricants business faced difficult conditions in Western Europe, especially in Germany, where demand remains weak and competition intense.

The consumer lubricants market in North America continues to be competitive but margins and market share have been maintained. Burmah expects a further exceptional charge of £10 million against the reorganisation of the research and development operations of its construction products businesses.

Earnings fell 2.5 per cent to 31.5p a share but the interim dividend is maintained at 14p a share, paid as a foreign income dividend.



Tim Stevenson reported a 4 per cent drop in interim pre-tax profits at Burmah Castrol

Tempus, page 30

## Bodycote price lifted by results

SHARES in Bodycote International, the metal components processor, jumped 47.5p yesterday to 985p on news that it increased pre-tax profits by 65 per cent (Robert Cole writes).

Taxable profits for the half-year to June 30 were £37.8 million, against £22.9 million last time. Organic profits growth accounted for the lion's share.

John Chesworth, managing director, said: "With 161 plants offering a wide range of metallurgical processes - in 17 countries and 127 currencies Bodycote is in a good position to make further progress despite uncertainties - in the engineering sector."

Earnings per share rose from 18.7p to 26.3p. The dividend is up 33 per cent to 4.25p.

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## British Vita in agreed £65.9m Doeflex bid

By PAUL DURMAN

BRITISH VITA is strengthening its plastics business with an agreed £65.9 million takeover of Doeflex.

Jim Mercer, Vita's chief executive, said the deal would take the group into important markets, such as those for high impact polystyrene and the Benelux countries. He said Doeflex represented an "outstanding opportunity" - the smaller company has been investing heavily and had created a "superb" plastic manufacturing facility in Redhill.

Vita is offering 575p a share, almost 60 per cent above the price at which Doeflex shares were trading before it recently announced it was in takeover talks. Doeflex's directors, who control 21.5 per cent of the shares, gave irrevocable undertakings to accept the bid.

which is worth £9.6 million to Richard Bickerton, the chairman, and his family. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, acting for Vita, spent £18.9 million to acquire a further 28.5 per cent, effectively securing the deal.

Shares in Vita, which have collapsed from 342p in May, rallied 16 1/2p to 230p. The group has spent £154 million on acquisitions since April.

Vita also reported a 15 per cent rise in first-half profits to £36.8 million. Sales were 9 per cent ahead at £418.7 million.

In the industrial polymers division margins fell from 8 to 7.7 per cent as Vita sacrificed profit in favour of market share.

The interim dividend rises from 4.25p to 4.5p a share.

Tempus, page 30

## Forth Ports up 17%

FORTH PORTS, the company that landed the Royal Yacht Britannia as a visitor attraction to its Leith port near Edinburgh, raised pre-tax profits by 17 per cent to £12.9 million in the six months to the end of June (George Sivell writes).

Turnover at Leith, and Forth's six other ports, rose by 12 per cent to £50.2 million and earnings rose 10 per cent to 21.0p. The half-year dividend rises 11 per cent to 5.0p.

Bill Thomson, chairman, said: "We anticipate that Britannia will become a significant visitor attraction in Leith towards the end of this year." On trading he said: "We are well placed to withstand any economic downturn." Shares in Forth rose 7 1/2p to 502 1/2p.

## Dewhirst shares slide 23% after profits warning

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Dewhirst group fell by 23 per cent yesterday after the Marks & Spencer clothing supplier forecast its first profits decrease for six years.

The company said that lower demand from M&S was combining with the costs of establishing an overseas production base to hit margins. It added that operating profits would be "marginally lower".

The City took this to mean that M&S itself could be up against stiff trading conditions, and shares of the retailing group dropped 8.5p to 519.5p in a rising market.

Dewhirst shares, meanwhile, fell 24p to 105.5p.

Tim Dewhirst, chairman, said the downturn had hit the

company over June and July after a relatively successful four months of trading. This reduced margins by a full point, to 6.8 per cent.

Overall, pre-tax profits were £13 million (from £14.2 million) leaving earnings of 6.81p (7.41p) per share for the six months to July 17. However, the interim dividend rises to 1.45p (1.4p), due November 6.

City analysts were alarmed at the speed of the slowdown, but most expect Dewhirst to overcome the problems in the medium term.

Most analysis now forecast a pre-tax profit of £28 million for the full year, against £37 million expected before the announcement.

## Alexon to open new shops after strong first half

By FRASER NELSON

ALEXON, the recovering retailer of women's wear, is to open 12 more Ann Harvey and Kaliko stores over the next 12 months after returning strong half-year results despite tough conditions on the high street.

The company, which owns 45 Ann Harvey shops and 19 Kaliko, said yesterday that current conditions are "well above plan". It added that Dolcis, the shoe retailer in which Alexon has invested £6 million of working capital, is making a rapid recovery, although the division made an operating loss of £4.39 million at the half-way stage.

Alexon's shares jumped 9 1/2p to 197p yesterday as analysts said that they were impressed

that it has avoided the worst of summer's retail downturn.

Alexon's wholly owned shops made operating profits of £6.49 million, up from £5.4 million, in the half to August 1. After factoring in Dolcis's results, group pre-tax profit fell to £2.92 million (£5.61 million).

The company said this drop was artificial, because Dolcis is 100 per cent owned by Electra Fleming, the venture capital firm, leaving Alexon protected from any operating loss it may make. Alexon manages Dolcis, and has a right to buy it in 18 months' time if its recovery is going to plan.

Headline earnings were 8.81p a share (7.52p). Again, there is no interim dividend.

## Biotech firms break out of gloom

By PAUL DURMAN

AFTER a long and miserable summer, the UK biotechnology sector was yesterday buoyed by a series of positive developments as Chromascience named a Japanese marketing partner. Vanguard Medica announced that it was working with Roche on a new kidney drug and Xenova secured additional funding of £9.6 million.

Shares in Vanguard jumped by 48 1/2p to 360p - almost twice their low at the end of July. Vanguard is to develop a Roche compound to produce a drug to prevent acute renal failure, a problem for many

people who require surgery. Initial optimistic estimates suggested that this project could eventually be worth tens of millions of pounds a year for the loss-making Guildford company.

Chromascience will receive an initial £125 million from Maruishi Pharmaceutical Co, which will develop its long-lasting local anaesthetic for the Japanese market.

Xenova, which originally looked for £20 million of funding, is having to issue four shares and two warrants for every five existing shares. The implied price of about 55p is barely a quarter of the flotation price in late 1996, and an even smaller

fraction of last year's high of 435p. Xenova hopes next year to raise a further £6.7 million through the warrants priced at 70p.

David Oxlade, Xenova's chief executive, said: "This is an important achievement in what can only be described as the worst climate for raising money for biotech for a very long time."

PPL Therapeutics, the company best known for its role in cloning Dolly the sheep, will also need to raise more money in the next nine months, since it ended June with only £12.6 million. Its first-half losses grew to £6.7 million (£5 million) because of increased research costs.

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ECONOMIC VIEW ANATOLE KALETSKY

# Bears may banish concern about rates and the pound

As stock markets tumble the outlook for sterling offers British industry a silver lining

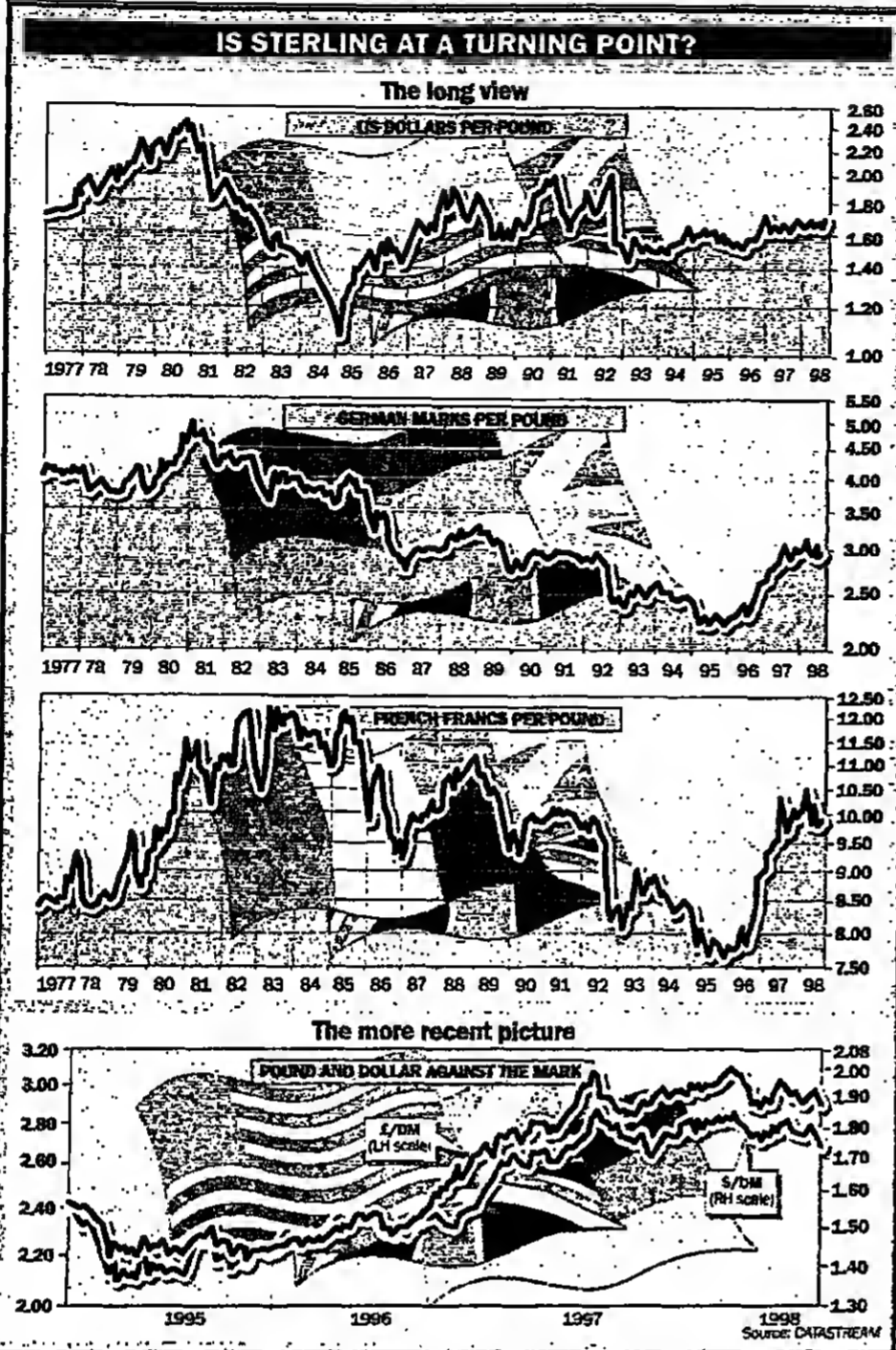
The bear market in equities may so far have run only half its course and the damage to Britain's huge financial services industry has not even begun to hit home. But looking at the longer-term consequences of a bear market, it is becoming increasingly likely that there will be a big silver lining attached to this cloud.

This silver lining — the weakening of sterling — was briefly discussed on this page last Wednesday. Since then sterling has continued its sharp decline and yesterday the pound reached some critical technical thresholds at about DM2.87. In the past 12 months, the pound has repeatedly fallen to around this level and then bounced sharply back. This could, of course, happen again.

But if there is a decisive breach of the present "technical support", which Brian Marber, one of London's leading technical analysts, puts at between DM2.87 and DM2.89, there would be a good chance of the pound continuing its fall, first to around the old ERM limit of DM2.78 and then perhaps to the next region of support, just below DM2.65. More importantly, if the present support does give way, the pound is very unlikely to return to its recent peaks of above DM3 in the foreseeable future.

To put this more clearly from the perspective of the average British industrialist: the pound may be on the point of falling into a new trading range of DM2.65 to DM2.85. This may still be too high for the liking of many British exporters, but at least the much more disturbing possibility of sterling becoming permanently established in the region of DM3, would become a thing of the past. For this reason, if it comes, British industrialists and Labour politicians should be grateful to the bear market on Wall Street and to the general instability of world financial markets.

There are several "fundamental" economic reasons, on top of the technical evidence about market psychology, for believing that sterling will weaken significantly if stock markets around the world continue their decline. Last week I mentioned two reasons: the structure of the British economy, with its unusual dependence on financial services, especially for overseas earnings; and the stance of the Bank of England, which is now much less likely to raise interest rates or resist a moderate decline of the pound. In addition, there are two other factors that are likely



to weigh even more heavily on sterling, especially in the short term. These are the pound's link with the dollar and the liquidity pressure on global investors.

For years the pound has been much more closely aligned with the dollar than the mark. Now that the dollar is falling, alongside the decline on Wall Street, this is bound to weaken the pound against the mark, at least in the short term. Leaving on one side for the moment the possible reasons for the decline of the dollar, it is worth examining the facts about its strong correlation with sterling.

Looking back over the past two decades, the pound's gyrations have left it almost unchanged against the dollar (see top chart). Sterling today is just 4.5 per cent below its average value in 1977 and also very close to its average value for the past 20 years as a whole.

More recently, sterling has been stable against the dollar even in terms of short-term fluctuations. In the six years since Britain left Europe's exchange-rate mechanism, the pound has almost never moved outside a 13 per cent

band between \$1.50 and \$1.70. Against the mark it has fluctuated far more, by as much as 35 per cent, in the same period.

All sorts of reasons have been suggested for the pound's correlation with the dollar, including Britain's industrial structure, its position as an oil exporter and the lower political tolerance for long-term unemployment in the Anglo-Saxon countries than in Germany and France.

But whatever the causes, the facts of the correlation are clear. So is one implication, illustrated in the bottom chart. This shows that the abrupt strengthening of the pound against the mark since the summer of 1996 has been almost exactly paralleled by the upward move of the dollar against the German currency.

Put another way, a significant cause of the strong pound was the strengthening of the dollar — or its mirror image, the weakening of the mark. From the currency traders' standpoint, this correlation with the dollar is the main reason why the pound has fallen so sharply — from

DM2.98 to DM2.87 just in the past two weeks. If the dollar continues to weaken, so will the pound.

But why has the dollar weakened? This is where the collapse in global stock markets comes in. Many economists have argued that falling share prices would hit consumer demand in America, either forcing the Federal Reserve Board to lower interest rates or causing a recession in the US. In my view this analysis is wrong, since the underlying strength of consumer demand in America is strong enough to withstand the shock of a moderate bear market and America is, in some ways less exposed to global financial turmoil than are such recession-bound economies as Germany and Japan.

One illustration of this relative vulnerability is relative exposure to trade with emerging markets. Although market traders universally believe that the US is more exposed to emerging markets than any other leading economy, this is factually untrue now that Russia and Eastern Europe have been caught up in the maelstrom. While America's exposure to Asia

and Latin America is slightly greater than Germany's, Germany is much more dependent on trade with Eastern Europe and Russia. According to IMF statistics, total trade with emerging markets accounts for about 4.9 per cent of GDP in America, compared with 5.2 per cent in Germany, 5.3 per cent in Japan and 4.7 per cent in Britain.

But even if the pessimism about US growth prospects proves wrong in the long run, the short-term impact of falling equity prices is bound to push the dollar down. This is because of liquidity pressures in financial markets.

As Wall Street has fallen, Japanese investors have been pulling their money out of the US. Even more importantly in the short term, hedge funds and other speculative investors have been forced to cut back their risk exposures, closing down the lucrative currency positions they had run for years to exploit the big interest differentials between the dollar and the yen or the Swiss franc. As a result, the dollar has fallen alongside Wall Street, and will probably continue to do so until some stability returns to world financial markets.

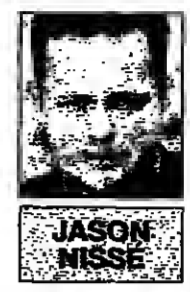
But does this mean that sterling's fall is simply a by-product of the weakness of the dollar? And will the pound strengthen again if the dollar recovers because pessimism about the US economy proves to be misplaced?

Perhaps not. For one thing, the liquidity pressures on speculative investors which have driven down the dollar could be even more powerful in the case of the pound, if only because the pound owed even more of its attraction to Britain's exceptionally high interest rates. More fundamentally, demand in the British economy is much weaker and has less upward momentum than it has in the US.

Thus Britain is more likely than America to suffer a serious, if temporary, setback to growth as a result of a loss of financial confidence. Industry is also far less competitive in Britain than in America at current exchange rates and neither the British Government nor the British industrial establishment seems willing to live with a strong pound.

None of this means that sterling will fall very sharply or even approach the level of below DM2.60 before the general election and Bank of England independence. The Bank's fears of inflation and the possibility of re-entering the ERM at a central rate of about DM2.60 or DM2.70 would certainly set a lower limit to the fall. And because of Britain's high interest rates, the pound should keep bouncing back, even if it establishes a downward trend. But even if sterling never falls far enough to make life for British industrialists as easy as it was in the mid-1990s, their nightmares about a permanently overvalued pound may soon be laid to rest.

# Golden challenge of locating consumers with mobile lifestyle



Given the economic and political turmoil in Russia at the moment, it was perhaps predictable that handing over cheques totalling \$1 million (about £600,000) and three mobile phones made out of gold to an elite group of athletes might not be universally appreciated. However, Ericsson, the Swedish telecommunications group, was pretty sanguine about the local reaction to the IAAF Golden League final in Moscow on Saturday.

As the three winners — Marion Jones, the new heroine of South African athletics; Hicham El Guerrouj, the Moroccan 1,500 metres star; and the record-shattering 3,000 metres champion, Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia — held up their booty, boos echoed around Moscow's Olympic stadium. Despite giving away free tickets to local schoolchildren, many of whom were then spotted trying to sell them on the black market, only 10,000 of the 83,000 seats available for the event were filled.

Jones did not help matters by telling reporters that she planned to put her share of the prize money in a bank to earn interest — and one can safely assume it was a neither a Russian bank nor one in her native Johannesburg to which she was referring. Indeed if she wandered around the streets of Johannesburg, her golden Ericsson mobile phone, it would not be long before she was mugged at gunpoint.

Despite these little local difficulties, Mr Albertson, marketing director of Ericsson, said yesterday that he was glad the company had bought up this event. "This is a global league, with six events preceding the final, which have all gone extremely well."

This is Ericsson's first year backing the global league. The way the event works is that there are six grand prix championships that lead up to a final. The main prize is split between those athletes who not only win the races at each of the six grand prix, but also the main final. Mr Albertson is loath to reveal how much it is costing Ericsson to buy up this event, but it is believed to be more than the \$1 million top prize. Even so, Mr Albertson reckons it is money well spent, which is not surprising as Ericsson only signed on the dotted line after a long review of the group's sports marketing strategy.

A couple of years ago Ericsson decided to take a long, hard look at how it was spending its marketing krona. Mr Albertson says that laying out millions to be one of up to a dozen sponsors of large sporting events — such as the World Cup or the Olympics — did not look like a good way of getting the Ericsson message across. "We wanted focus in our sports marketing," he said, and to achieve this focus Ericsson decided to divide up what it wanted and see what fitted into its criteria.

At first Ericsson hoped to sponsor a worldwide event that would be watched by customers from São Paulo to Shanghai, who would immediately dash out and buy the latest Ericsson technology. This soon proved to be an impossible task so more modest ambitions were hatched.

The world was divided into three zones — Europe, the Americas (Latin America is a

large market for Ericsson) and Asia Pacific. Ericsson decided to buy up an event in each zone. It chose an event rather than a person or a team because there is much less risk that an event will underperform, become the subject of a drugs scandal or generally do something that would harm the sponsorship. Despite eschewing teams, Ericsson is still keeping up its backing of

Queens Park Rangers in football and Wasps in rugby union as these are relatively inexpensive and, according to Mr Albertson, "appear to be working well at a local level".

It then decided it would only back events it could own, in soccer, American football or any of the truly mass media sports. Ericsson could find no affordable events that had anything more than national appeal. So it decided to concentrate on athletics in Europe, tennis in the Americas and golf in Asia Pacific. In South America Ericsson set up the Copa Ericsson, its own tennis event, and has just purchased



Golden phone winners: Marion Jones and Haile Gebrselassie

# Driven deal

INSTITUTIONAL investors were falling over themselves yesterday to sell out of UPF, the vehicle chassis maker that believes its future will be in the hands of venture capitalists. They'll learn. Managers are taking the company private, backed by Philirew Ventures, and independent directors are fully behind the managers in recommending the terms.

The share purchases mean the deal is pretty well done. However, at least one institution is unhappy at the fact



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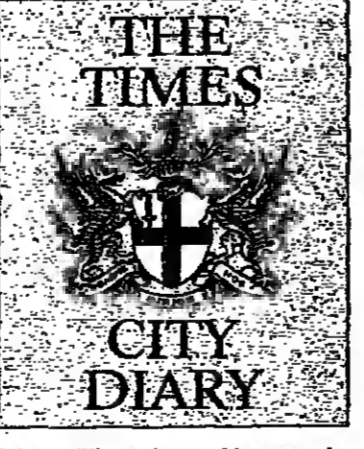
that Philip Stephens, an independent director, is a corporate finance executive at Williams de Broe. Which firm of financial advisers acted for the independent directors? You guessed it — Williams de Broe. With whom he was clearly in full agreement.

THE International Monetary Fund meets this autumn, and one of the topics is the millennium bug. Alas, the IMF is not saying which member country's delegate, asked recently what plans there were for dealing with the bug, looked blank for a while and then replied: "Simple. Just get out the spray gun."

**Liffe choices**

SUGGESTIONS that Bankers Trust may have abandoned plans to locate its new London HQ in Canary Wharf and instead opted for the Spitalfields site vacated by Liffe will presumably be welcomed by many of the staff. Yet this could also swing a few bob the way of Liffe, and provide the financial futures market with about its only bit of good news all year.

It all has to do with the complex agreement with the Corporation of London under which Liffe paid £40 million for an option on the site at the end of 1996. One of the first acts by



Brian Williamson on taking over the Liffe chairmanship this summer was to bow to the inevitable and accept that the market would never need the 750,000 sq ft of space there.

The assumption has always been that the Corporation would simply pay about £50 million to take the site back and fling it on to a willing buyer, of whom there are a couple at least. But it seems that Liffe is hoping to do a deal with the potential occupier and pocket any profit. So the Corporation is poring over the small print of the original deal to see if the repurchase can be enforced.

A NEW saviour has emerged for Hyundai's deserted microchip plant in Dunfermline, in a deal brokered by one of the area's most senior politicians with an oil-rich nation. Such is

the talk of the town. The story begins to leak credibility when you learn that the politician is Ron Brown, former local MP and a maverick even by the standards of most Labour politicians in Scotland, who was derailed after sex scandals and an unfortunate court case. It subsides entirely on the revelation that the possible rescuer is his old friend Colonel Gaddafi.

Brown has told the local paper that "top-level Libyans are receptive to doing a deal which could resurrect the £2 billion scheme. There is an inevitable catch: the sanctions imposed on Libya which could be lifted on delivery of the Lockerbie bomb suspects. Don't hold your breath."

**Tallis man**

JOHN TAVENER is about as fashionable as you get in contemporary music circles and successful too, for his was featured at the funeral service of Diana, Princess of Wales. His next work is *In the Month of Athor*, a setting of a verse by the poet Constantine Cavafy, commissioned by the Tallis Scholars, the vocal group, and sponsored by the financial services headhunter the Tallis Group.

The link is, of course, Thomas Tallis. The singers take their name from the Elizabethan composer, and Edward Clark, chairman of the Tallis Group, is descended from him on his mother's side, and named his business accordingly. The work is now complete and will be premiered in the

Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery on November 3. "This music will last — it's not music that just gets one performance," Clark enthuses.

I left the oddest bit until last. As readers may have noticed, I have been away sorting out an addition to my family and only returned yesterday to learn that Clark had been trying to contact me with news of the commission. Meanwhile, it is usual for the local health authority to assign new parents a health visitor, to drop in once or twice to make sure the brute isn't chained to the radiator being fed dog food. Ours duly arrived. She turned out to be Clark's ex-wife.



John Tavener's latest work was commissioned by a headhunter

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Handwritten text at the top of the page.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: SHORTS (under 5 years).

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: LONGS (over 15 years).

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: UNDATED.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years).

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: TRANSPORT.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: WATER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: RETAILERS - FOOD.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: RETAILERS - GENERAL.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: OTHER FINANCIAL.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: SUPPORT SERVICES.

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BRITISH FUNDS. Table listing British funds.

SHORTS (under 5 years). Table listing short-term investments.

LONGS (over 15 years). Table listing long-term investments.

UNDATED. Table listing undated investments.

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at. Table listing index-linked investments.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio. Section: OTHER FINANCIAL.

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The Lord Chancellor's Department is seeking two lawyers to join its staff at the LAW COMMISSION, working as part of a team with a Law Commissioner to recommend reform in business law. The work involves legal research, drafting of reports and consultation papers, and instructing Parliamentary Counsel.

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- good writing skills and
- strong interpersonal skills.

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For an information pack please call the Lord Chancellor's Department recruitment line on 0171 210 1303 during office hours before 21 September 1998. Application forms and recruitment packs are also available in braille, in large print and on cassette.

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams or Benjamin Hoar on 0171 425 6025 (0171 425 4025 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD Legal. Confidentiality Ref: 0171 831 6394.

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**Senior Vice President 10+ years**  
You will lead a team of nine associates, six of whom are lawyers. You will be responsible for the assignment of large, complex asset-based transactions. Your role will also include structuring, negotiating and documenting leasing, sales, acquisitions and financing transactions. In addition, you will be an integral member of a market driven business team responsible for delivering premier legal services around the world. This position will champion and lead the Quality effort within the Shannon legal team using six-sigma quality tools.

We are looking for a senior professional with a minimum of 10 years' transactional experience in aviation finance and leasing. Strong communication, presentation and negotiation skills are essential along with the ability to work well with senior management. You must be a proven leader and bring a strong international focus to your work.

**Vice President 5+ years**  
As a lawyer your role will include structuring, negotiating and documenting leasing, sales, acquisitions and financing transactions. You will work in a dynamic team environment with significant approval empowerment at the deal team level. You will work closely with and provide supervision to outside counsel on larger, more complex transactions and/or litigation. In addition you will be responsible for the management of assigned corporate, compliance and quality activities.

You will have at least five years' financing and leasing experience within the aviation industry either from private practice or in-house. You will have proven negotiating, commercial and analytical skills enabling you to work on complex sales, financing and leasing issues as well as broader commercial agreements.

For both of these positions you will need to be proactive, imaginative and a team player capable of working closely with all levels in one of the most global companies in the world. The ability to take a more strategic, rather than simply a legal role on certain transactions is essential. Both positions will require travel.

You will be offered excellent career opportunities and an outstanding salary, bonus and benefits package.

To discuss these opportunities further, please contact Samantha Malin or Kate Sutcliffe (QD In-House Legal) on 0171 405 6062 (0171 221 8825/0956 969203 evenings/weekends) or write to them at 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH.

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# LAW

How many times have you come close to walking out of a store without paying for something? Distracted by crying children, tired, worried about work or a relationship or feeling the effects of medication, you may not have been paying attention to what you were doing. You could end up charged with shoplifting. It has happened: celebrated cases include that of Lady Isabel Barnett, who took her life in 1993 four days after being convicted of stealing food worth 87p from a shop. More recently, there was the case of Richard Madeley, of the TV-presenter couple Richard and Judy, who was prosecuted — and then found not guilty — of two charges of shoplifting from Tesco.

If that happened to you, would you regard it as a minor case, to be tried by lay justices in the magistrates' courts? Or would you consider that an accusation of being a thief was no minor matter and that you should be entitled to the option of choosing a jury trial?

When you are the person in the dock, a just result is more important than what is convenient for the system. The quality of decision-making matters more than the number of cases completed. There is no doubt that a jury trial is a superior process to a trial in the magistrates' court. It has important extra safeguards. What concerns the Government is that a jury trial may take longer and cost more and is more likely to result in an acquittal. That is why the Government is considering reducing its availability.

The Law Society is against removing the right to jury trial when theft is alleged and people risk losing their liberty, livelihood or reputation. Trials are conducted at a slower pace for the benefit of the jury, allowing a fuller consideration of evidence. The language used has to be easily understood by the jury (and, in turn, the accused). Jurors apply their experience of everyday life. Together, they represent a diversity of background: 12 ordinary people chosen at random who can benefit from their collective recall and group decision-making.

A vital prosecution witness may be a store detective or police officer who has regularly given evidence before the lay justices. There is a danger that the magistrates become case-hardened to defences such as "I just forgot to pay".

Restricting shoplifting cases to magistrates' courts would be justified only in less serious cases if the "dishonest" tag was removed. The person would simply be accused of having left the shop without paying (without a need to prove intention to steal) and would be offered the option of paying a fixed penalty without having to go to court.

Take another example of what could happen. Your son, in his first year at medical school, is charged with affray and causing grievous bodily



The court's decision is final: Richard Madeley was cleared of shoplifting but Lady Barnett was found guilty

## In defence of a trial by jury

As the Government considers limiting the right to jury trial, Roger Ede explains why the accused should be entitled to choose the court for their case

When his job was advertised, not one suitable candidate stepped forward. A second attempt to fill the post will be made soon.

• **THE stream of wallpaper-related quips about Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, has continued — but now the quips are coming from the Lord Chancellor's lips. In June, when he accepted the Law Society's award for the best lawyer in the year, he thanked all those lawyers who voted for him, especially those called "Willpaper". A month or so later he was at it again — this time of a newspaper reception in his now notorious apartment. Now the *South London Law Society's* journal has reported how, at a solicitors' dinner, the Lord Chancellor told of a Peckham greengrocer writing to ask him for off-cuts of his wallpaper on a "no stick, no fee" basis.**

the law, applying the law to the facts of the case and summing up the evidence for the jury. In the magistrates' court, lay justices, without giving their reasons, decide on the law as well as on guilt or innocence. If there is to be a Crown Court trial, the prosecution must give the defence copies of its evidence, instead of just the snapshot of the case as in the magistrates' court.

Your son's solicitor may wish to try to persuade the prosecution to discontinue the case because of the unreliability of the evidence. A fuller review of the case by the Crown Prosecution Service inevitably comes after its being marked down for trial in the Crown Court. Further thought is given to whether a prosecution really is in the public interest and the evidence is checked by a lawyer. If that fails, the solicitor has a chance at the committal hearing in the magistrates' court to argue that the evidence falls short of what the jury needs in order to convict and that the case should be brought to an end there and then. So in a criminal case,

## Question: When is disgusting not obscene?

James Ferman last month published his last annual report before his retirement after 23 years as the director of the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC). He criticises the police and magistrates for applying the law of obscenity "in too strict a manner to allow the material the customers want" and he concludes that "as we enter a new millennium, we must find a solution to the problem of pornography, which will not go away".

The Obscene Publications Act 1959 suffers from three main defects: it is poorly drafted, it is inconsistently applied and it lacks any coherent principle. It states that an article is obscene if its effect is such "as to tend to deprave and corrupt persons who are likely, having regard to all relevant circumstances,

to read, see or hear the matter contained or embodied in it". In a judgment in the House of Lords in 1972 concerning the magazine *Dingle Dangle No 3*, Lord Wilberforce complained that the statute offers no definition of "deprave and corrupt" and does not even identify whether the concern is that the impugned material may cause people to commit wicked acts, or whether the mischief is simply that erotic desires may be aroused. (The courts have held that the latter may be sufficient to establish obscenity.)

Because the Act provides no further criteria for the application of this branch of criminal law, Parliament has imposed as subjective a test of obscenity as that stated by Mr Justice Stewart in the United States Supreme Court in 1964: "I know it when I see it".

The courts have emphasised that a film is not obscene simply because it is disgusting. In the *Cz* case in 1971, Lord Chief Justice Widgery for the Court of Appeal accepted the defence's submission that the test under the 1959 Act is "not whether material is 'repulsive, filthy, loathsome or lewd'. In 1972, the House of Lords explained that "corrupt" is "a strong word", meaning much more than to "lead astray morally".

The consequence is that, in applying "the current standards of ordinary decent people" (the principle stated by Lord Reid in 1972), juries rarely convict videos or other material for obscenity where they simply show consensual sexual intercourse between adults, however graphic the detail. The Crown Prosecution Service does not expect to secure convictions for obscenity in jury trials unless the work contains images relating to children, animals, non-consenting adults, or gross degradation. However, by contrast, magistrates, purporting to apply the same legal principles, regularly and unjustifiably order the forfeiture of material similar to that which is acquitted of obscenity in jury trials.

This branch of the law lacks any coherent principle. Courts must determine whether a film may deprave and corrupt, and yet are forbidden from hearing any expert evidence on a complex question with profound psychological and ethical implications. It is, in any event, difficult to understand how magistrates can rationally conclude that pornographic films tend to deprave and corrupt viewers when there is no evidence that ready access to such material in (for example) France, Germany and The Netherlands has resulted in widespread depravation and corruption.



David Pannick QC

There is — so far as I know — nothing to suggest that those police officers, magistrates and barristers who regularly watch pornography in the course of duty are any more depraved and corrupt than their colleagues. Perhaps they all adopt the approach recommended in 1978 by John Mortimer, QC, who wrote that as counsel for the defence: "At the showing of blue movies at Scotland Yard I take the precaution of removing my glasses, which reduces the whole messy business to an impressionist blur".

I must here declare a professional interest as counsel for the distributors of a pornographic film in a recent appeal before the Video Appeals Committee sitting in Frith Street, Soho.

Mr Mortimer conceded that pornography was far from attractive, but he was "sure that censorship is more dangerous". The BBFC, under Mr Ferman, has sensibly recognised that in all but very extreme cases a system of classification rather than censorship is appropriate. Those who may be offended or disgusted have no obligation to watch. Those who wish to buy pornography should be able to do so, but only in licensed sex shops, out of sight of the rest of the community. To ban such material is an indefensible restriction on freedom of expression, it is contrary to the contemporary community standards expressed by jury acquittals and it is futile in an age of ready access to such material through the Internet, satellite broadcasting and purchase abroad.

Mr Ferman has spent much of the past 23 years watching the unpleasant, the vile and the evil. It has not impaired his ability to analyse the need for reform of our obscenity laws.

• *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*

## New look for the law lords

A new look for the highest court in the land. As Lords Goff of Chievely and Lord Nolan retire this month, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Millett, both 66, move up from the Court of Appeal to the Lords. There has been speculation that the two appointments move the complexion of the law lords further to the Right.

Those keen to keep the liberal composition of the highest tribunal may be comforted that Lord Browne-Wilkinson, 68, moves up to be top dog — he is now the senior Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.

But regulars before the Lords say that the role of the senior law lord is not what it was. "There is not the old deference to the senior law lord," they claim. "He does not control the questions. Now every law lord wants his say; they all chip in."

**Leading LAG wanted**  
WANTED: somebody to run the Legal Action Group (LAG). Since Roger Smith left the group in July to be director of education and training at the Law Society, the LAG has been leaderless. Mr Smith was director of the pressure group on curriculum publishing and training for 12 years and by the time of his departure his name had become synonymous with the group.

When his job was advertised, not one suitable candidate stepped forward. A second attempt to fill the post will be made soon.

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**Legal mystery**  
LONDON police are trying to trace the owner of an unusual implement they think was used to stab a teenager in a brutal murder last month. The implement, which looks like a screwdriver with its end cut off, was found at the scene of the murder at Rush Common on Brixton Hill. The police think it is either a collarawl, as used by saddlers, or a lawyers'



Lord Irvine of Lairg: decorating jokes

boodkin, which solicitors used for bundling legal documents before modern technology took over. Dean Martindale, 17, died on August 2 after he was attacked by four youths. A 16-year-old youth has been charged in connection with the incident, and police want to identify the suspected murder weapon. An officer says: "We would like to hear from anyone who has lost a collarawl or a lawyer's boodkin or has seen someone using or carrying one in unusual circumstances."

• **If you have any information, telephone Detective Inspector Adrian Pardoe-Blackledge at 0181-247 8073 or Crimestoppers on 0800-555 111.**

## Legal DIARY

### QUEEN'S COUNSEL Stuart & Francis

**LEGAL MATHS**  
IT'S URGENT—I MUST SPEAK TO MR LOOPHOLE.  
I'M AFRAID HE'S ON HOLIDAY.  
WELL, DIDN'T HE LEAVE ANY INSTRUCTIONS IN THE FILE?  
I DON'T KNOW, I'M JUST A TEMP.  
ER, HOLD ON THERE DOES SEEM TO BE A NOTE HERE.  
IT SAYS "THIS CLIENT IS A COMPLETE FUSSPOT. FOR HIM OFF WITH SOME STUFF AND I'LL DEAL WITH HIM WHEN I GET BACK."  
HELLO?  
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**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY** to £150,000  
Property lawyers rarely get the chance to enjoy the advantages and rewards of partnership in high profile international firms. You could be the exception if you are a development specialist with good contacts and a hunger for the excitement of a consortium client base. This enormously profitable practice retains the culture of a medium sized partnership but has prestigious clients worldwide. It is now ready to offer the opportunity to a young partner to expand an already dynamic and successful international property practice.

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To discuss any of the above appointments in detail, please contact Penny Teyndrup, Sarah King or Simon Janion on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/weekends: 0181 675 8711), or write to us, in complete confidence at 44/45 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LB (Fax: 0171 404 8817).

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Frances Gibb reports on a new survey that reveals the profession's most wanted



Lawyers in a league of their own: Guy Beringer, left; Nigel Boardman, Habib Motani and Anthony Salz

## Where the best lawyers turn for top advice

Whom do lawyers pick from their colleagues when they need top legal advice? A survey published this week lifts the lid on who is regarded as the lawyers' lawyer in the commercial world — the best business lawyers according to in-house lawyers and company legal departments, as well as heads of industry and senior finance directors. These are the lawyers who are likely to be in the top-money league, among those who, according to latest figures, are making profits of between £500,000 and £900,000 a year.

The top 15, who were all recommended by several companies, are at the big City firms, apart from Paul Hally of the Scottish firm Shepherd & Wedderburn. Topping the league table is Guy Beringer at Allen & Overy, with Nigel Boardman at Slaughter & May, Habib Motani at Clifford Chance and Anthony Salz at Freshfields. The survey, contained in *The 1998 Chambers and Partners Guide to the Legal Profession*, draws on the recommendations from *The Times 1,000 Companies* list. Companies surveyed were asked to name lawyers who went beyond just being legal advisers, but were also imaginative, creative and commercial.

Mr Beringer was praised as "a charming and sophisticated user-friendly lawyer" who responds rapidly to a changing situation, while Nigel Boardman, who heads his firm's corporate department and is highest of the

**LEGAL HOTSHOTS WANT MORE THAN MONEY**

MORALE is up among young lawyers, but many are looking to forsake high salaries for a better quality of life outside London.

That is the key finding of a survey this week by Zarah Macrae Brenner (ZMB), the legal recruitment consultants, in conjunction with *The Times*. The survey of 700 young lawyers — mostly aged between 25 and 30 — found that a third of respondents were likely or very likely to move within the next 12 months.

Jonathan Brenner, a director of ZMB, says: "Increasingly, they seem disenchanted with jobs in the City and the US law firms. With the long-hours culture, they find they have no time to spend the money they earn. There is a big shift towards quality of life — a third of those who said they were likely to

four Slaughter partners in the list, is hailed as being "outstandingly able and effective" and for his "creative, pragmatic advice". Mr Motani is described as a leading practitioner in international capital markets and derivatives and Mr Salz, senior partner at Freshfields, as "undoubtedly one of the market leaders" and "a hands-on, lead-from-the-front lawyer". Those who make the second band win similar praise.

The Chambers guide is now a crucial tool for anyone researching the legal market. As well as being a comprehensive directory of leading law firms and the Bar, with profiles and of firms

and leading specialists in subjects from aviation to agriculture, shipping to sport, throughout the country, it contains a package of tables and surveys. These include the corporate finance survey, a league table based solely on the opinions of clients of the top corporate firms in the UK, which sees Slaughter & May this year move into top slot, both in terms of reputation and user-friendliness.

Reena SenGupta, the editor, says: "Slaughter & May has built on a highly profitable year while not pursuing the international strategies of other top commercial firms."

Linklaters is in second place with

Freshfields and Clifford Chance following. But the verdict is that after these firms, there is "clear water" between them and their nearest rivals.

And in a new national survey of commercial property firms, Nabarro Nathanson, the archetypal property firm, is pushed into third place by Linklaters, and Berwin Leighton and Addleshaw Booth & Co of Leeds and Manchester and the Scottish firm McGrigor Donald move into the lists.

● The directory is available on CD-Rom and the Internet ([www.chambersandpartners.com](http://www.chambersandpartners.com)); CD-Rom and hardback, £45 each. From major bookshops and the distributor Biblios (01403-710971).

## Why music is slow to move to the Internet beat

The music industry would seem to have the most to gain from the Internet revolution, yet so far it has been the last to join the party. The technology enabling Net browsers to download pop, rock and dance music from a website on to a CDR (recordable CD) in their own home has existed for several years. But music industry legal and business practices seem to have slowed progress to a near halt. So reluctant is the industry to open its doors to the new medium that the Net still accounts for only 0.001 per cent of UK music sales and in the US the figure is a mere 0.003 per cent. The copyright issues of marketing and distributing music on the Net produce some peculiar legal obstacles.

Dean Marsh, a music lawyer, explains: "One example concerns where the sale is actually made. Is it at the consumer's home computer or the location of the company from whose website the consumer orders or downloads the music? Contract law suggests that the location of the person accepting the offer, the consumer, is the point of sale."

Where the sale takes place can decide how many royalties are received and by whom. Mr Marsh also points to the advertising revenue record companies reap from their websites. "Much of this revenue is undoubtedly generated by the music featured on the site," he says. "But artists receive no share. Record companies will earn an estimated \$650 million worldwide in the next five years from such advertising, so it is an issue that artists should address."

Gavin Robertson is new media research and development manager at the MCPS/PRS Alliance, which collects money for composers and music publishers. He believes that market forces lie at the heart of the music industry's response to the Net. He says: "Heavy record company politics have come into play. Major record companies are much more than that. They are an aggregate of retail sales forces, distributors, manufacturers and marketers. All these functions will be lost to the Net. Major record companies really just react to everything that either creates or destroys high street sales. The Net is the purest marketing and distribution tool and as such it can only destroy the high street sales on which majors depend."

CDuctive, a US-based company, has cornered the market in online distribution for independent dance-music companies. The company has set up licensing deals with more than a hundred independent labels, and visitors to the CDuctive site can download music directly on to their CDRs. Users pay £4.70 for their first se-



Michael: pitching on the Net

lection, then 60p for each subsequent track to a maximum of 72 minutes of music. The technique is known as "custom-burning." Tom Ryan, the co-founder, says: "People can learn about music they wouldn't otherwise be able to buy. A boy in the American Midwest can now access the most obscure UK electronica label. The young dance music audience also means they are more likely to be computer-literate."

Though some of the major companies such as Sony have tackled the issues raised by new technology, many music contracts need updating. Mr Marsh says: "Many artists' recording agreements do not provide for the proper transfer of online copyrights and lack a workable mechanism for paying the appropriate royalties."

Some serious investment in new practices and systems is needed, but there seems to be a stand-off between big labels and technology. Some insiders claim that record companies would rather the Net just went away. Another Net-based problem is copyright protection. The MCPS/PRS Alliance estimates that 26,000 websites offer music free without authorisation from or payment to UK writers and performers.

But without the demand from the industry to sell its products on the Net, the auditing and collection systems necessary to protect the creators of music will not evolve. The lack of demand from the industry is very visible from the range of music now available on the Net for downloading. Leading labels have held back their catalogues and the music available is invariably owned by small independent companies that have little to lose by marketing their music in this way. Apean Records, owned by the singer George Michael, has provided music on the Net since it was founded.

But, until big record labels agree to issue blanket licences for their catalogue to Net providers, the online offerings are unlikely to be anything but the more obscure margins of the music scene. The majors should beware of depriving music fans of what they want. The backlash of withholding their catalogues could be fatal to the industry. A digital copy of a CD is the same as the original. There is no loss of quality or degradation in the transfer, so the potential for electronic piracy is enormous: it could destabilise the industry. In the first quarter this year, sales of records in the UK increased by 8 per cent to £1.05 billion. If the industry is to maintain its rude health it must embrace the Internet now.

ADAM BARKER

● The author is a music industry lawyer.

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**CONSTRUCTION** To £56,000  
If you find high quality and varied work boring and do not want proper career development, then don't join this top 10 City firm, which offers all that and more to non-contentious construction lawyers with 0-4 years' post qualification experience. You could come from a different, but related, field. Ref T46890

**PROPERTY** To £44,000  
Happiness for a commercial property lawyer with 0-2 years' post qualification experience is a firm where you are treated as an individual and not just a cog in the wheel, where good performance is properly rewarded and where you can build a successful career. So you will be very happy at this top 10 City firm. Ref T19699

**CORPORATE TAX** To £27,500  
There are exciting opportunities for corporate tax lawyers at all levels, from newly qualified to partner, at this leading medium-sized City firm, which does not have enough tax lawyers to meet the needs of its highly-rated corporate practice. The work will be broad, the promotion rapid. Ref T44423

**CORPORATE SUPPORT** To £48,000  
Join the growing band of lawyers who are moving into professional support positions and you will enjoy an exciting mix of regular hours, fee-earner pay and pivotal work at a leading medium-sized City firm. An excellent compromise for corporate lawyers with 2+ years' post qualification experience. Ref T50681

**PFI PARTNER** To £Equity  
While this well-known mid-sized firm has already established a name for PFI work, it is now looking for a dedicated specialist to take over the practice and develop it beyond its NHS and local government roots. The rewards for the senior lawyer who achieves this will be superb. Ref T50184

**ENERGY** To £75,000  
Give your career a jump-start by joining a highly-rated energy team at this top 15 City firm. If you are an ambitious oil and gas lawyer with 4-8 years' post qualification and downstream work, you will also be given the chance to test yourself in project finance matters if you want. Ref T45873

**CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL US FIRM** To £25,000  
Passport at the ready - the London office of this top US firm needs corporate/commercial lawyers with 2-5 years' post qualification experience who are keen to travel extensively. This is an unusual perk for lawyers at that level, indicating the responsibility you will have. The pay, of course, is great too. Ref T46835

**PENSIONS** To £55,000  
This heavyweight medium-sized City practice sees pensions work as a major growth area and will do all it can to ensure that its pensions lawyers are happy. That means genuinely good pay, prospects and responsibility - with partnership a real possibility - if you have 2-6 years' post qualification experience. Ref T2396

**FINANCE US FIRM** To £110,000  
The London office of this top 10 US firm stands out among both its US and UK rivals for the quality of work and quality of the lawyer it attracts. The fantastic pay also helps if you are 0-7 years qualified in corporate finance, asset finance, project finance or banking. Ref T38333

**TELECOMS/MEDIA** To £27,500  
Don't delay - amazing opportunities like this hardly ever come along. This top 10 City firm, one of the most successful and profitable firms in the country, is looking for a heavyweight lawyer, perhaps with a team, to lead and develop its telecoms practice. Ref T49635

**TAX** To £70,000  
Get in near the start of this national firm's plans to expand its corporate tax capability and the rewards - which are good here at the worst of times - could take you all the way to partnership. The firm genuinely rewards on merit, so you can join at any level and expect to advance quickly. Ref T47727

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Gavin Sharpe, Sarah David or Seamus Heer at QD Legal on 0171 405 6062 or 0171 794 6188 or 0411 306 515 evenings/weekends or write to them at QD Legal.

E-mail: sharpe@qdgroup.co.uk  
E-mail: david@qdgroup.co.uk

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London  
WC1R 4JH

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**Structured Finance**  
World leader in their field seeks project financier to join their highly successful asset management team. With 1-4 yrs' post qualification experience in structured finance gained at a leading City firm, you must also possess genuine leadership ability. Ref: 38967

**IT - London**  
Dynamic lawyer with minimum of 5 yrs' post qualification experience is sought to head the IT department of a prestigious financial institution. Strong IT/IP experience is essential, whilst a knowledge of the securities industry would be a distinct advantage. Ref: 41317

**Telecoms - Hampshire**  
Acquisitive telecoms company is seeking a commercial lawyer to assist in the development of a sister office to their existing legal resource. 2-4 yrs' post qualification experience for reputable law-firm background and experience of telecoms industry. Ref: 40680

**Co/Commercial - Amsterdam**  
Commercial lawyer with around 4 yrs' post qualification experience is required to head up Dutch office of renowned telecoms company. Fluency in Dutch is essential, whilst a knowledge of the securities industry would be an advantage. Telecoms experience would be the icing on the cake. Ref: 41282



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## Industry

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**Qualifications:** candidates will:  be members of a legal professional body in a country of the Common Law tradition;  have a minimum of three years' post-qualification experience in banking law and practice relating to structured finance operations; experience in a Civil Law system and in EC Law would be an asset;  have the ability to handle complex finance documentation and have proven drafting and inter-personal skills;  be able to work under pressure, demonstrate qualities of energy, imagination as well as sound judgement and sense of discipline. Sound knowledge of computing tools is also required.

**Languages:** in addition to perfect knowledge of English, a very good command of French is desirable. Knowledge of other languages would be an advantage.

The EIB offers attractive terms of employment and salary with a wide range of welfare benefits. Applications from women would be particularly welcome.

Applicants, who must be nationals of a Member Country of the European Union, are invited to send their curriculum vitae, together with a letter and photograph, quoting the appropriate reference, to:

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L-2950 LUXEMBOURG. Fax: + 352 4379 2545.

Applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be returned. General information on the EIB can be found on the Internet (<http://www.eib.org>).

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As a senior assistant, you should have 3-5 years experience of contentious and non-contentious Employment law, ideally gained in a major City or regional firm. Excellent communication skills and the ability to work well in a team, together with a commercial approach are key requirements.

These roles offer unparalleled opportunities for bright, commercially minded Employment specialists to join this dynamic practice. If you would like to find out more, please contact our retained consultants Dominique Graham or Sophie Brooks for a discussion in complete confidence. Telephone 0171 430 1711. Fax 0171 831 4186. E-mail: ggy@netcomuk.co.uk This assignment is being handled exclusively by Graham Gill & Young.



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## European Counsel

With headquarters in St Louis, Missouri, Deutsche Financial Services (DFS) is an international leader in financing and servicing programmes that facilitate the distribution and sales process. It provides flexible finance programmes tailored to the specific needs of its clients' businesses ranging from inventory financing through to asset-based lending and on-lender financing. DFS's managed loan portfolio exceeds US\$7 billion and is a unit of the Deutsche Bank Group. With assets of US\$560 billion, Deutsche Bank Group is one of the largest financial institutions in the world.

**Amsterdam**

A senior lawyer is now required to service the group's current European legal needs and manage legal affairs in DFS's expansion into Western Europe. Based in the expanding Amsterdam office and reporting directly to the General Counsel, St Louis, you will be an integral part of the global legal group and will work autonomously alongside the business in Europe.

**Your profile:**

- ◆ A European qualified lawyer with approximately five years post qualification experience in general finance including asset finance, secured lending, conditional sale structures, factoring and syndicated loans. Knowledge of local credit license regulation is also useful but not essential.
- ◆ Fluency in English, plus a second European language, is highly desirable given the global nature of DFS's business as is an understanding of EU regulations.
- ◆ Capable of working autonomously and liaising directly with internal project groups, you must be able to effectively manage external counsel and take a pragmatic, proactive approach to legal work, fully integrating yourself into the business.

To find out more about this opportunity with a truly global organisation, please contact our exclusively retained consultant, Catherine Brown on 0171 289 2484 or write to her enclosing your CV at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN. Fax 0171 405 2938. This assignment is being handled exclusively by Michael Page and all direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them. e-mail: catherinebrown@michaelpage.com www.michaelpage.com

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Dyson is one of the success stories of recent years. With a young, progressive and innovative culture, it has established itself at the top of domestic appliance technology and design in less than five years. With an ever expanding range of products, the UK business has grown rapidly and successful trading has been established in world-wide markets - in Europe, the Far East and Australia. In line with continued growth throughout the business, Dyson is now looking to appoint two additional lawyers to increase the range of legal services available to the company and its global operations.

**Commercial Lawyer**

Ideally you will have between 3-5 years' PQE with a strong commercial background. You must be experienced in negotiating and drafting diverse commercial contracts and agreements both in the UK and internationally, and a sound knowledge of IP and EU law is desirable. Support for international subsidiaries and markets is an important aspect of this position. The successful candidate will be a clear communicator and strong team player with the ability to respond quickly and positively to a broad range of issues.

**Litigation/Commercial Lawyer**

A unique opportunity has arisen for a lawyer with a minimum of three years' litigation experience to handle a mix of both contentious and non-contentious matters. Your experience as a litigator will preferably be in the field of technology, demonstrating strong negotiation skills and strategic thinking. There will also be opportunities to develop in other areas of law, as part of a team of lawyers with responsibility for all aspects of the company's business. Both positions require a pro-active and creative approach, working closely with different divisions within the company. In return for your talent and drive, you can look forward to an excellent rewards package, along with the opportunity to make an impact at the highest levels of this dynamic company.

In the first instance, please contact, in complete confidence, Jacqueline Wood or Sarah McGinty on 0121 643 1895. Alternatively, please send your full CV, including the details of your current remuneration, to them at HW In-House Legal, High Holborn House, 52-54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RL. Fax: 0121 633 0862. e-mail: sarah.mcgintry@hwgroup.com; internet: www.hwgroup.com

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## AVAILABLE AT SHORT NOTICE?

**IT**  
International company seeks 3+ years' qualified solicitor/barrister for 3-6 month contract to assist with a wide range of IT issues. This includes drafting and negotiating software and hardware agreements. Must be able to work with minimal supervision to assist small, busy legal team. Ref: 60252

**BROADCASTING/REGULATORY**  
Newly formed company within the broadcasting industry seeks 2-5 years' qualified solicitor/barrister to work independently for a 6 month contract. Experience acquired from either a regulatory or broadcasting environment. Ref: 60254

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**  
Well regarded medium-sized London practice looking for a senior commercial property lawyer for a 3 month contract. Should be 5-8 years' qualified with experience of leasing, sales and acquisitions and portfolio work. To start as soon as possible due to burgeoning work load. Ref: 60265

**COMPANY/COMMERCIAL**  
London office of US firm requires 2-5 years' qualified solicitor/barrister for a 3-6 month contract. Will be reviewing a wide range of agreements and terms and conditions. EC experience would be useful. To start as soon as possible. Ref: 60268

**JUNIOR FINANCE**  
US investment bank requires junior lawyer ideally with banking and finance background. 3-4 month contract to review EMV documentation. Immediate start. Ref: 60269

**INSOLVENCY LITIGATION**  
Major City and international commercial law firm require 2 solicitors to work in the corporate recovery team for a 1 year contract. Insolvency or banking litigation experience essential. Opportunity to develop non-contentious skills. Ref: 60264

**COMMERCIAL**  
Major services provider within commutable distance from London looking for commercial lawyer 2-4 years' qualified to cover 12 month maternity leave. Broad ranging commercial role. Knowledge of EC law would be an advantage coupled with excellent drafting skills. Ref: 60404

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**  
Major US practice requires 2-8 years' qualified solicitor/barrister. Must be UK qualified with experience of landlord and tenant and lease negotiation. 3 month contract with back payment. Immediate start. Ref: 60041

**COMMERCIAL**  
Exciting opportunity to join the dynamic new organisation for a 12 month contract. Candidates must have a strong commercial background together with a robust personality and will be primarily involved in sponsorship agreements. Should be 3+ years' qualified. Ref: 48274

**CORPORATE KNOW-HOW**  
Major City firm requires solicitor/barrister for 6 month contract. Should have corporate/commercial background. Will be responsible for producing new precedents, updating current precedents and reviewing documents. Ref: 45551

**CONSUMER CREDIT**  
Major financial institution requires 2-4 years' qualified solicitor/barrister for a 6 month maternity leave cover. Should have working knowledge of consumer credit. To start October. Ref: 60169

**IP**  
Major telecommunications company based in Home Counties requires 1-4 years' qualified solicitor/barrister. To work in small team on patents, trademarks, licensing and confidentiality agreements. Immediate start. Ref: 60305

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact: **Cliff Freeman or Emma Anderson** on 0171-405 6082 (171-367 3888 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD Special Project Lawyer. E-mail: helen@qdgroupp.co.uk E-mail: emma@qdgroupp.co.uk

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**Letters of acceptance**  
When you receive an offer of employment, and it's just the job you'd hoped for, you need to be careful. You've got what you wanted. Don't blow it. There's no need to suppose on the impression you've already made. They clearly like you. Anything more you do may alienate them. Some years ago, a candidate wrote an acceptance letter in an excessively friendly style. The employers had been impressed by his bubbly, engaging manner. Why not show them, he thought, how informal he could be. Fortunately, he showed us the letter - hand-written, chatty, in an ornate flowery script - and we were able to stop it. By contrast, another candidate showed us a stalling letter which was both friendly and impressive. She'd received an offer after a first interview, but had two other interviews lined up. She therefore wrote that she felt 'very positive' about the firm, and would probably accept the offer, but she'd promised to see some other firms before she made her mind up. She was not being reluctant, but this was a very important decision for her. She would get back to them within three weeks. The letter was so positive that the firm were not at all alienated. In fact, it confirmed their view that she was the right candidate for them.

**INDUSTRY** *Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis, Deborah Kirkman, Stuart Morton*

**Housebuilder** Bedfordshire  
Major player seeks lawyer 4-7 years' experience to carry out site acquisition work. Plot sales and more straightforward transactions handled by junior team. Package includes car.

**Entertainment** West End  
New role for lawyer c. 2 years' experience which should include drafting and negotiating production agreements or general entertainment law, to join TV and film financing company.

**IT Lawyers** London/South East  
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**PRIVATE PRACTICE LONDON:** *David Woolston, Paul Thomas, Emma Ridley*  
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**Corporate Tax** City  
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**Defamation** City  
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**Projects Professional Support** City  
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**Property Finance** City  
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**Contracts Manager** City  
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**Commercial Litigation** West End  
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**Commercial Property** Scotland  
Leading Edinburgh based firm, second to none for retail work, seeks English qualified solicitor with 2-5 years' ppe for commercial property team acting for blue chip clients.

**Acquisition Finance & Projects** US Firm  
Leading Wall Street firm, committed to expanding its powerful English-law team, seeks 1-5 yr qualified solicitors for acquisition finance, projects and capital markets.

**Litigation (German speaking)** City  
City firm with strong international business connections seeks a commercial litigator. 1-5 years qualified, to act for German, Austrian and Swiss clients.

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**CHAMBERS DIRECTORY**  
Our legal directory is available from **Biblos**, (01463-710 871)

## Media Lawyer

Channel 4's Legal & Compliance Department plays a crucial role in ensuring the Channel fulfils its remit to be distinctive through bold and innovative television. Breaking new ground and challenging established formulae in programming can create a number of legal and compliance issues; commissioning editors and programme makers rely on us to guide them through the minefield of legal and regulatory requirements.

An opportunity has arisen for a lawyer to join the team. Covering the whole range of Channel 4's varied and challenging output, your responsibilities will include:

- Provision of pre and post transmission advice on legal and regulatory issues affecting the making and broadcasting of programmes to commissioning editors and programme makers
- Dealing with pre and post transmission complaints and related correspondence (including with the ITC) and from time to time with pre-transmission injunction applications at short notice
- Writing and delivering seminars on legal and compliance issues to programme making teams
- Handling complaints made to the Broadcasting Standards Commission on standards and fairness/privacy including attending hearings on the Channel's behalf
- "Legalling" live and as-live recordings in the evenings and at weekends.

You will have:

- 2-5 years' post-qualification experience as a solicitor or barrister
- Knowledge and practical experience of media law. Familiarity with the regulatory framework affecting broadcasting would be an advantage
- Experience of giving pre-publication advice, in private practice or in-house
- Excellent communication skills - particularly you will be able to give clear practical advice to programme makers and journalists
- Flexibility and the ability to maintain effectiveness under pressure, sometimes working unpredictable hours.

If you think you fit the bill, please send your up-to-date C.V. with a covering letter quoting your current salary and any notice requirements for your current employer, to The Personnel Department, Channel 4 Television, 124 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2TX. Please quote Ref: JTD6/T.

Closing date: 25th September 1998.  
Interviews will be held in late October 1998.

**CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION**

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Please write with full CV and current salary details to Pat Shaw, Personnel Manager, Clifford Chance, 200 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4JJ. Tel: 0171-600 1000. Fax: 0171-600 5555. E-mail: pat.shaw@cliffordchance.com

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An information pack is available; by telephone: 0151 866 3163 or from: Peter Dawson, Clerk Designate, Wirral Borough Magistrates' Courts, Chester Street, Birkenhead, Wirral, L41 5HW

Closing date for receipt of applications is: Friday, 25 September 1998 with interviews expected to take place in October 1998.

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Our client is one of the UK's leading broadcasting and publishing organisations with a growing commercial interest in global markets. Recent years have seen spectacular growth in the branding, merchandising and licensing of highly successful products, characters and brands. A major review has identified the need for improved copyrighting and other arrangements in their intellectual property in the UK and worldwide. Copyright systems and processes for copying and protection of rights need to be taken forward and developed into a single integrated strategy. Total management is the objective, and the role will play an important part in its development.

This is an excellent opportunity for a talented professional with legal knowledge and experience in copyright law to play a key role in the development of a new brand. Your success will depend on the ability to work closely with Brand Managers, Internal and External Lawyers, Trading Standards, Manufacturers and Distributors in order to ensure that the copyright and other arrangements are taken forward and developed into a single integrated strategy. Total management is the objective, and the role will play an important part in its development.

We are looking for a professional with a minimum of 3 years' post-graduate experience in copyright law and brand protection. You should understand the dynamics of brand management, including trademarking and licensing, and be confident in your own ability to meet this challenge with creative, practical knowledge and clear commercial vision. In return, we offer a competitive salary and the opportunity to progress your career with an organisation of international repute.

For more information please contact: Julian Stone, HR Manager at: Carfax House, 3 Workhouse Street, London EC2M 7PD. Tel: 0171 417 1400. Confidential to: 0171 417 1400.

Email: [jan@garfieldrobbins.co.uk](mailto:jan@garfieldrobbins.co.uk)

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## Property Litigation/Environmental Lawyer

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سكزا من الأهل

RACING: PRIX NIEL PREFERRED TO ST LEGER AS GODOLPHIN'S ARC STRATEGY TAKES SHAPE

Sea change puts favourite out of classic

By Chris McGrath

IT IS just as well, from the point of view of punters, that Sea Wave looked such a good thing for the Pottinger St Leger on Saturday that bookmakers resisted offering prices for as long as they could. He will not be running at all.

Hurricane Danielle itself could not have whipped up such an overwhelming tidal wave as the one that crashed through everyone's assumptions when Sea Wave, 11-10 favourite when the Tote opened its book yesterday, was yesterday switched to the Prix Niel at Longchamp on Sunday. His place at Doncaster will be taken by Nedawi.

One of the most edifying features of the Godolphin revolution is that it has been conducted with exemplary deference to the betting public. Sheikh Mohammed's elite operation, which divides its year between Dubai and Newmarket, is run with none of the suspicion that afflicts some of the top stables in Flat racing. On this occasion, there will inevitably be those who feel that Godolphin has not matched its usual standards, but the fact remains that the flesh and blood of its horses comes first, and the pulse-rate of punters second. Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, explained that Sea Wave was being kept to a mile and a half as a more suitable springboard for a crack at the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. "I know it is a late decision, but it was only at evening stables that we discussed the situation with



Sea Wave will miss Doncaster to tackle one of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe trials at Longchamp on Sunday

Sheikh Mohammed and Sheikh Maktoum," he said. "We have opted for the more traditional Arc trial because, while we felt he would get the trip at Doncaster, the extra distance made it less suitable." Every option has always been preserved for the three

Godolphin acceptors, though the assumption that Sea Wave was the most likely runner had embraced the Godolphin camp itself. "It's difficult with ante-post betting, and some people may feel as though they have been cheated," Crisford said. "But the reality is that

you must always put the horses first. In a situation like this, where you hope a horse might go all the way, you have to be able to reserve the right to change your mind."

In Nedawi, Godolphin has an eminently competent substitute, as William Hill recog-

nised by making him its new 2-1 favourite. He will be Godolphin's sole runner, with Central Park joining Sea Wave in Paris to ensure a sensible gallop. Frankie Dettori, pencilled in for Sea Wave at Doncaster, will switch to Leopardstown where he will ride Swain in the Irish Champion Stakes. John Reid partners Nedawi.

Though Swain meets One So Wonderful and Naar, the Niel is now certain to be the pivotal Arc trial. The defeat of Peintre Celebre in last year's race confirmed that there is a big difference between the best sparring matches and the title bout over course and distance three weeks later. Pascal Bary, in particular, will be hoping that the Niel does not prove too bruising an encounter, as he runs both Dream Well, winner of the Prix du Jockey Club and Irish Derby, and Croco Rouge.

Both colts are returning from a break, and Bary said yesterday: "I would have preferred to run them in different races but there is no alternative. Cash Amussen (Dream Well) and Swayne Guillot (Croco Rouge) will be careful that they do not have a hard race. Both horses are well, but both will need the run to be ready for the Arc, especially Dream Well, as he tends to work lazily at home."

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market. Includes a 'GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES' table and a 'YESTERDAY'S RESULTS' section.

LINGFIELD PARK THUNDERER. 2.00 Superior Force. 2.30 ALABAMA (nap). 3.00 Glastonbury.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD. 4.00 49'S HBL BLINDLEY HEATH HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£2,675; 7f) (18 runners).

LEICESTER THUNDERER. 2.10 Sena Desert. 2.40 Little Henry. 3.10 Krasna. 3.40 Andehish. 4.40 Udden, 4.40 Vala. 5.10 Ron's Round.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS. Bath. 2.00 Good good. 2.00 (5f) 11ydl, 1 Brocken Sage (C) Ruler.

EDENBRIDGE SELLING HANDICAP (All-weather; £2,160; 1m 2f) (14 runners). 2.00 Superior Force.

4.00 49'S HBL BLINDLEY HEATH HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£2,675; 7f) (18 runners).

LEICESTER THUNDERER. 2.10 EBF FILBERT MAIDEN FILLY STAKES (2-Y-O; £3,948; 1m 8f) (13 runners).

7.10 REMPTON MAIDEN STAKES (OW; 2-Y-O; £3,428; 7f) (15).

FORM FOCUS. Sea Wave 11st 2lb of 17 to Ocean Park in selling stakes at Warwick (1m 2f) 1997, good to firm.

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EBF NUTFIELD MAIDEN FILLY STAKES (OW; 2-Y-O; £3,307; 7f) (10 runners).

EBF NUTFIELD MAIDEN FILLY STAKES (OW; 2-Y-O; £3,307; 7f) (10 runners).

WYNEWOLD MAIDEN STAKES (£3,561; 7f) (20).

STAG APPRENTICES HANDICAP (£2,085; 1m 11f) (17).

C & H (HAULIERS) NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O; £2,287; 7f) (18 runners).

4.30 EBF NUTFIELD MAIDEN FILLY STAKES (OW; 2-Y-O; £3,307; 7f) (10 runners).

LEICESTERSHIRE MAIDEN STAKES (£4,205; 1m 11f) (20).

CASTLE STAKE HANDICAP (3-Y-O; £3,534; 2m 19yd) (10).

MARSH GREEN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,226; 6f) (18 runners).

KPMG MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (£2,450; 1m 3f 10yd) (14 runners).

BUCKHALL AUSTIN NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,150; 1m 3f) (7 runners).

DUTTON FORSHAW (DURHAM) MAIDEN STAKES (£3,518; 1m) (12).

MARSH GREEN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,226; 6f) (18 runners).

KPMG MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (£2,450; 1m 3f 10yd) (14 runners).

BUCKHALL AUSTIN NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,150; 1m 3f) (7 runners).

DUTTON FORSHAW (DURHAM) MAIDEN STAKES (£3,518; 1m) (12).

7.45 tonight: kick-off in the £100,000 game



Dennis Bergkamp, who notched up 72 points in Fantasy League last year, in action against Chelsea last season. The sides meet again tomorrow

Fantasy League is here: point-scoring begins in earnest tonight, so if you haven't signed up yet you should get your entry in today so you don't miss out on this week's games

The big day is here: today the Fantasy League begins, and the points for your 11 players start clocking up. So if you haven't picked your team...



form a league, this is a brilliant way to play the game in an office, school, pub or sports club. A minimum of five teams can form a league...

THE START Fantasy league can be entered at any time but only by entering today can you score points from the very start of the main game...

TRANSFERS You are only allowed to use 12 transfers in the season. Until noon today only, you can make unlimited transfers to strengthen your team...

EASY CHECKLIST

- Follow this simple step-by-step guide: 1. Select your 11 players from the list (right): one goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 centre backs, 4 midfielders, 2 forwards...

use your identification number (PIN). Transfer Line: 0640 62 51 03 (ex-UK +44 870 901 4293). Remember: the line closes at noon today for unlimited transfers...

THE GAME You have a total budget of £50 million to spend - and remember you can only choose ONE player per club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation...

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of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment, awaits the managers whose teams score the most points in a particular week...

FANTASY LEAGUE FAXBACK SERVICE To receive a comprehensive breakdown of your team's performance use our unique faxback service. The service will be updated by noon every Tuesday...

For terms and conditions send a SAE to: Fantasy League, Competitions Dept. Level 4, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9DB. Helpline: 01552 702720.

CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Table listing players from various football clubs with columns for player code, name, club, Fantasy League points, and valuation (£m). Includes sections for GOALKEEPERS, FULL BACKS, CENTRE BACKS, MIDFIELDERS, and FORWARDS.

Advertisement for 'Have' (likely a beverage) with a large image of a person's face and promotional text.

سكزا من الأمل

# Have you chosen your dream XI?

**Nick Szczepanik** looks forward to tonight's Fantasy League kick-off and offers some shrewd hints for your team selection

It's time to forget the depression caused by the weekend's World Cup qualifying results and begin playing for the big prize — £50,000 and a trip for two to the European Cup final. Yes, the big kick-off in the 1998-99 Fantasy League has arrived.

Starting today, the players you have picked in your Fantasy League team begin to accrue the points which could net you a share of the total £100,000 prize money. As well as prizes for the winner, runner-up and third place, there are cash prizes for both monthly and weekly winners. So in any one week, a hot streak for players in your selection could win you £500 plus £100 of sports equipment; a longer run of form, and that monthly prize comes into range.

The August Warm-up competition is over (for a list of in-form players, see below); now for the real thing. Two full programmes of FA Carling Premiership matches in the next seven days kick off the competition proper, and there is plenty to whet the appetite. If you have yet to enter a team, where have you been? Who are the players who could make you £500 richer next Tuesday?

Home games against Charlton Athletic and Coventry City may give Manchester United a chance to improve on indifferent early-season form, but to net maximum points they must breach Charlton's hitherto impregnable defence; so will Sasa Ilic, the Charlton goalkeeper, whose three shutouts were worth 11 points in the warm-up competition, be a better signing than Teddy Sheringham, the only United striker to score a Fantasy League point so far?

Nottingham Forest were widely tipped to struggle, yet tonight they could go to the top of the Premiership if they beat Everton at the City Ground, a far-from-impossible prospect. Steve Stone is back to fitness, and has outscored all other midfield players in the August Warm-up. If Forest fail and Leeds United beat Southampton at Elland Road, Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and company will be looking down on the rest. Hasselbaink's contribution to the Leeds cause last season was worth 60



points, which is reflected in his valuation of £8.1 million, but could represent good value; Dwight Yorke, for example, scored only 40 points last season.

Speaking of Yorke, Aston Villa, his former club, are not doing too badly without him following his transfer to Old Trafford. Lee Hendrie, a snip at £3.7 million, has been given his chance in midfield by John Gregory, the manager, and has responded with valuable contributions. Villa play at home twice this week, against Newcastle and Wimbledon, and will consider both games winnable.

West Ham, too, have two home games, and have yet to concede a goal, giving four of their defenders a healthy nine points each so far. But on Saturday, their visitors will include a certain Michael Owen, the top scorer in the warm-up competition and worth 80 points last year — a clear case of the irresistible force against the immovable object. Speaking of which, Neil Ruddock, as a former Liverpool man, would take special pleasure in keeping Owen off the scoresheet. Many entrants will have Owen in their teams; they will just have to hope that Ruddock does not have him in his pocket on Saturday afternoon.

Whatever team you choose, good luck. The season starts here.



**BEST WARM-UP TEAM**

This was the best possible team from the Warm-up game that finished recently

Russell Hoult (DER)	6
Gary Charles (AST)	9
Andy Ince (WES)	9
Martin Keown (ARS)	8
Peter Atherton (SHE)	6
Steve Stone (NOT)	8
Mazzy Izet (LEI)	5
Gustavo Poyet (CHE)	5
Michael Hughes (WIM)	5
Michael Owen (LIV)	14
Clive Mendonca (CHA)	11
<b>Cost:</b> £49.0m	<b>Points:</b> 86

**FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK**



Steve Stone was an England regular until suffering a serious injury two years ago. The highest-scoring midfielder player in the August Fantasy League Warm-up competition, tonight Stone could help Nottingham Forest, pre-season relegation favourites, to the top of the Premiership

**As I was saying . . .**

It all starts for real today, then. It certainly does. The pre-season friendlies are all played, and I've got a fair idea of the team I want . . .  
**Oh yes, speaking of pre-season friendlies, how did you do in the August Warm-up competition?**  
 . . . my team's taking shape, and I'm only a piece or two short of the jig-saw puzzle . . .  
**But how did you do . . .**  
 . . . I just need to decide on my fourth midfield player . . .  
**In other words, you did disastrously in the Warm-up.**  
 I wouldn't exactly call it disastrous. And anyway, it's a well-known fact that the worse you do in pre-season, the better you do in the real thing.  
**A well-known fact, is it? So losing the Charity Shield 3-0 to Arsenal was all part of Manchester United's plan, was it?**  
 It might be.  
**But where did you go wrong?**  
 Well, like a lot of people, I underestimated Charlton Athletic. I thought about Clive Mendonca, but eventually I went for Andy Cole . . .  
**Did he actually score a goal in August?**  
 I think you know the answer to that one. And I also overestimated Southampton. I remembered Paul Jones, their goalkeeper, playing very well at the beginning of last season. Unfortunately, Southampton have begun this season where they left off the last one and Jones was in goal when they lost 5-0 to Charlton. At least he was until he was sent off, so I had the small consolation that he wasn't on the pitch when Mendonca scored his three goals.  
**You couldn't have done worse, really, could you?**  
 Couldn't I? How about deciding that Michael Owen would suffer a post-World Cup loss of form?  
**But I bet he was first on your list for your proper team.**  
 Definitely. And looking at the scores from last season, I think it's best to spend the most money on forwards and goalscoring midfield players. Laudrup and Overmars will score me a netful of goals, but also provide a lot of assists.  
**Ah, assists. They will be very important. You need someone in your team who can take corners and free kicks.**  
 Exactly; and I think I've got just the right man.  
**Beckham? Hinchcliffe? Ginola?**  
 I'll admit I thought about Hinchcliffe — but in the end I went for Paul Teller, of Coventry.  
**Explain yourself.**  
 Simple. I saw a Bolton v Coventry game last season when Coventry scored three goals from corners, and Teller took them all. It makes sense; think about all those Dion Dublin headers from corner-kicks and crosses. And think about through passes for Darren Huckerby.  
**Hmm. You've thought about this, haven't you?**  
 Well, there's a weekly prize this season, and I'm up for it in a big way. Plus you only have £50 million to spend, and you can only choose one player per club, so you have to look at some of the unfancied players as well as the continental stars.  
**Absolutely, they don't come cheap. And will they play a full season, these fragile, temperamental foreigners?**  
 After he played in Glasgow, I don't think I need to worry about Laudrup. But I agree they're expensive.  
**Where will you be saving money, then?**  
 I plan to double up in certain positions. Irwin at full-back takes penalties, so I'll get loads of points there, and he's a good crosser. Assists is my watchword. Matt Elliott scores goals from set-pieces, so he'll be good value.  
**Any of your stars of last season coming back for another go? Izet? Babayaro?**  
 Unfortunately there's the rule that you can only have one player per club. Otherwise I might have tried to get Magnus Hedman in goal and Pontus Knattmark at the back to go with Owen, my sole England international.  
**Swedes 2. Turnips 1?**  
 Exactly.

**Ten to watch this season**



**GOALKEEPERS**  
**Peter Schmeichel** (left) outscored the rest last season and may do so again, depending on the stability of Stam and company in front of him.  
**Kasey Keller** (right), of Leicester City, has hinted about trying his luck in Europe and may be out to impress potential employers as much as he did Ronaldo, who described Keller's display for the United States against Brazil as the best he had seen.



**FULL BACKS**  
**Nigel Winterburn** of Arsenal (left) shows few signs of losing his appetite for medals, or even the occasional spectacular goal.  
**Stan Lazaridis** (right), once described by Harry Redknapp, his manager, as "not a full-back of any sort", is now a fixture on the left side of the West Ham defence, and his accurate crossing can be expected to provide plenty of assists.



**CENTRE BACKS**  
**Marcel Desailly** (left) has not started his Chelsea career as well as expected, but even if he lives half-way up to his reputation as the best defender in the world, he deserves a place in your team.  
**Matt Elliott** (right) was Leicester City's top goalscorer for much of last season, reflecting his heading power at set-pieces; but he is also part of a settled defence which gives little away.



**MIDFIELDERS**  
 While other Italian imports attracted more headlines, **Francesco Balzani** (left) of Derby County was worth 52 points last season, contributing 12 goals to finish second top scorer.  
**Steve McManis** (right) has never scored as many goals as he should, but with Liverpool in good form, he can be confidently expected to provide assists for Riedle, Fowler and You-Know-Who.



**FORWARDS**  
 Yes, but apart from Michael Owen . . . **Chris Sutton** (left) will take to the field to prove Glenn Hoddle wrong in every game this season and will be out to improve on last season's total of 18 Premiership goals and 70 Fantasy League points.  
**Dion Dublin** (right) was left out of the England World Cup 22, but his headers will score and create goals for Coventry . . . and he can take penalties



**THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM**

Submit your entry as soon as possible to maximise your point-scoring opportunities

**FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters)**

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box

CODE	GOALKEEPER NAME	CLUB	PRICE	STARTING VALUE
			£	m
CODE	FULL-BACK NAME	CLUB	PRICE	STARTING VALUE
			£	m
CODE	FULL-BACK NAME	CLUB	PRICE	STARTING VALUE
			£	m
CODE	CENTRE-BACK NAME	CLUB	PRICE	STARTING VALUE
			£	m
CODE	CENTRE-BACK NAME	CLUB	PRICE	STARTING VALUE
			£	m
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	PRICE	STARTING VALUE
			£	m
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	PRICE	STARTING VALUE
			£	m
CODE	MIDFIELDER NAME	CLUB	PRICE	STARTING VALUE
			£	m
CODE	FORWARD NAME	CLUB	PRICE	STARTING VALUE
			£	m
CODE	FORWARD NAME	CLUB	PRICE	STARTING VALUE
			£	m

**MAXIMUM OF ONE PLAYER PER PREMIERSHIP TEAM**

**TOTAL VALUE (MAX £50m)**

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I was under 18 on August 15, 1998. Date of birth:

I wish to enter the Bloomberg City League (please tick)

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1. On which days do you usually buy The Times?  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday  Don't usually buy The Times

2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

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**HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM**

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

**TO ENTER BY POST** Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

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**TO FORM A SUPER LEAGUE** You need at least five teams to form a Super League. The chairman must complete the form below and submit it with a valid fantasy league entry form for each team.

In the Super League, entering an entry fee of £5 per team (£10 sterling outside the UK or RoI) or credit-card details. Super League entries cannot be made by phone. The chairman will receive a monthly report on the league's progress.

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Total number of managers in your Super League:  (minimum five, there is no maximum)

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First Name:  Surname:

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I enclose a cheque/PO, made payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd for £ . . . £5 for each team in your Super League which includes your £2.50 entry fee for the main league (£10 sterling for each team for entrants outside the UK or RoI) Or please debit £ . . . from my credit card number:  Expiry date:

MasterCard  Visa  Name on card:

Supply address of registered cardholder on separate sheet if different from above. Signature:

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Send this form with a Fantasy League entry form for each manager in your Super League, including the chairman, with payment in ONE envelope to: The Times Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton, Beds LU1 1ZZ.

FOOTBALL

Premiership powerless over United

By JOHN GOODBODY

FA CARLING Premiership clubs and football authorities will be forced to stand aside in any proposed takeover of Manchester United by BSkyB.

As the shockwaves reverberated round the national game yesterday, it was recognised that any action to stop the deal would have to come from outside football.

Peter Storrie, the managing director of West Ham United, said: "I am not sure that it is healthy for the game, but I don't know on what grounds we could object."

Keith Wiseman, the Football Association chairman, said the governing body was likely to stand back from any takeover.

In 1992, when the League, which was launched later in the year, negotiated a five-year deal with BSkyB, the clubs decided that Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, could take part, although, as the head of Amstrad, he had an interest in selling satellite dishes.

Many large companies are involved in football already. This is just a very large one. I very much doubt whether the FA will have a view on the transaction itself.

He agreed there would be a conflict of interest if a television company owned the main club in the League with which it negotiated for television rights.

There were reports yesterday that should the deal go through, ticket prices and season tickets at Old Trafford would remain at the same level for five years.

United also said yesterday that the club had applied for planning permission for a £30 million extension to Old Trafford, increasing the stadium's capacity to 67,400 from its present limit of 55,000, which is always sold out for Premiership games.

At present, there are 42,000 season tickets, which cost a maximum of £380, with 10,000 tickets being sold for £14-£22 for individual matches. Usually, they are sold out five weeks ahead of games. The remaining 3,000 go to visiting fans.

of the FA Premier League that would block the deal. Negotiations with television companies are conducted by Peter Leaver, the League's chief executive. There is then a vote by the 20 Premiership clubs.

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Keith Wiseman, the Football Association chairman, said the governing body was likely to stand back from any takeover. He told the Today programme on BBC Radio 4: "FA rules deal essentially with football matters. Matters of company law and so on will be for the Stock Exchange and Office of Fair Trading to resolve."

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TONY ADAMS insisted yesterday that the fuss over his and Glenn Hoddle's books should not have affected England's performance in Sweden on Saturday.

Alan Shearer, the England captain, had complained after the defeat in Stockholm: "All that stuff about the books that went on before the game didn't help and could have affected the players."

However, the Arsenal captain responded with an assurance that his own below-par performance in the 2-1 defeat had nothing to do with the pre-match book furore.

Speaking at the launch of his biography yesterday, Adams said: "If that is what Alan feels, you will have to speak to him on that. All I can say is that no words or article have ever affected the way I play. I go out there and try to play the best football that I can."

"You'll have to ask the other players if it affected them. I can speak only for myself and it didn't affect me. I was

very sad because I don't like losing and we all take responsibility. As a team, we all have to look at ourselves and that is nothing new to me.

"It was never my intention to undermine Glenn Hoddle. There were a lot of reasons we lost in Sweden, but that is for me to sort out with the other lads on the training pitch at the next session — if I am included." Adams' book, *Addicted*, tells how he fought back from being an alcoholic to lead Arsenal to the League and FA Cup double last season.

Palmer ready for hard battle Germany coach throws in his hand

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

By ROB HUGHES

SOUTHAMPTON surpassed themselves in the FA Carling Premiership last season, finishing in twelfth place and avoiding their usual flirtation with relegation. Only at the start, when they lost their opening three games and won only one of their first nine, did they appear destined for another campaign of struggle.

A feeling of déjà vu hangs over The Dell, after successive defeats against Liverpool, Charlton Athletic and Nottingham Forest, and hopes of rapid improvement do not appear too rosy with away matches against Leeds United and Newcastle United on the immediate itinerary. A trip to Eland Road tonight, to play unbeaten Leeds, is not one to be relished.

For Carlton Palmer, though, the incentive could not be greater. He left Leeds a year ago, after falling out with George Graham, the Leeds manager, and has played a key role in Southampton's resurgence. As always, he is not shy of expressing his opinions.

Leeds have made a steady start and the thing about George — like him or not, and I don't — you know what sort of team he produces," he said. "In our present state, it's perhaps not the best time for us to be facing them. Maybe some of us got a bit carried away after last season and certain things are not right at the moment."

David Jones, the Southampton manager, may give Neil Moss, the reserve goalkeeper, his first game in almost two years in preference to Paul Jones. Scott Marshall, a summer signing from Arsenal, could make his debut in defence.

Nottingham Forest will go top of the table, albeit probably temporarily, if they beat Everton at the City Ground. However, Dave Bassett, the manager, is unable to call on Ian Woan, Chris Bart-Williams and Jon Olav Hjelde because of injury.

Pierre van Hoojdonk who is still refusing to play for the club, has been told by Frank Rijkaard, the new Holland coach, that he will not play for his country while he is on strike.

BERTI VOGTS, who coached Germany to win the 1996 European championship, resigned yesterday before his team had kicked a ball in defence of their title.

After returning from Malta, where his re-cast side had beaten Malta 2-1 and drawn 1-1 with Romania in preparatory matches, Vogts plied the Deutsche Fussballbund president and asked to be relieved of his post "to preserve any remnants of dignity left to me."

Egidius Braun, Vogts's boss for eight years, then announced: "Humanely, it hurts incredibly to carry out this separation, but as DFB president I had to realise it became unavoidable."

Before Keith Wiseman, chairman of the Football Association, takes notes should Glenn Hoddle offer his resignation, it must be noted that Vogts, 51, and his president had previously defended one another faithfully. The "separation" has inescapable parallels with the English situation. Vogts returned to Frankfurt yesterday to unanimous newspaper ridicule. He was, correspondents wrote, a coach who had lost authority with his team, had lost the confidence of the nation and had attempted to impose a system that the players did not understand.

Ironically, the method that Vogts was trying to get away from, the 30-year-old libero and wing-back model that is as tried and trusted as the VW Beetle, is the very style Hoddle seeks for England.

Vogts, who made 100 appearances for his country as a player, had been groomed to succeed as the coach but after falling at the 1994 World Cup and seeing his team beaten 3-0 by Croatia in France this year, he must have realised time was running out.

Unlike Vogts, Javier Clemente refuses to surrender his job as coach to Spain, despite humiliation in Cyprus at the weekend, but a 3-0 defeat by Poland proved to be the last straw for Hristo Bonev, of Bulgaria, who resigned yesterday.

Villa move for unhappy Merson

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

ASTON VILLA have opened negotiations with Middlesbrough for the possible transfer, for a fee of about £6 million, of Paul Merson, the England striker. Merson was due to meet Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, to discuss his future yesterday but failed to turn up.

John Gregory, the Villa manager, needs to strengthen his forward line after losing Dwight Yorke to Manchester United last month and Savo Milosevic to Real Zaragoza, of Spain, during the summer. The £15.6 million made from the sales of these players, and Fernando Nelson, to FC Porto, is available for him to spend. Stan Collymore and Julian Joachim are the only senior forwards available to Gregory at the moment.

Paul Merson was going to sign for us today, but I don't know where they came from," Gregory said last night. "Nothing definite has been sorted out, but I can confirm that I have spoken to Bryan Robson about Paul's situation."

Merson, a late substitute in England's 2-1 defeat by Sweden in Stockholm on Saturday, only recently signed an extended five-year contract at the Riverside Stadium. However, the recovering alcoholic spoke last week of his concern about an alleged drinking and gambling culture among the Middlesbrough players. He felt that he might lapse into his old habits if he stayed at the club.

Robson and Keith Lamb, the Middlesbrough chief executive, had planned to meet

are also interested in signing Merson. David Platt, the Tottenham director of football, has taken temporary charge at White Hart Lane and is believed to be considering an exchange deal for Merson involving Chris Armstrong.

Noel Whelan, the Coventry City striker, may miss the FA Carling Premiership match against Liverpool tomorrow night. Whelan was involved in an alleged disturbance at a party at the weekend and was taken to hospital with stomach and head injuries. A woman sustained a suspected broken arm in the incident and Whelan, after questioning by police, was released on bail.

Tottenham Hotspur, who dismissed Christian Gross, their manager, on Saturday,



Leaver: League negotiator

twentieth of the votes on Premiership issues. You do wonder, though, what this is the start of?

A spokesman for Liverpool said: "We cannot have any objection of any takeover by one of another." At Leicester City, another spokesman said: "We are not averse to the proposed deal per se. It is a negotiation that is taking place between two public companies. As far as a conflict of interests about television rights is concerned, the situation as we envisage it is that the structure would be unchanged, with United having one vote like everybody else. We are keeping an eye on it, but we do not have any objection."

There is nothing in the rules

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Match-pointed pairs is in many ways the most difficult form of the game. In rubber bridge and teams (IMPs), you won't go far wrong if you concentrate on making the contract as declarer, or beating the contract as defender. But at pairs overtricks are extremely important, so you are continually having to judge whether a hand is about success or failure of the contract, or about extra tricks. This example is from the 1998 EU Pairs Championship.

Bridge hand diagram showing Dealer South, East-West game, and Pairs. Includes a small grid and card symbols.

Contract: Three No-Trumps. South opened One No-Trump (15-17) and North raised to Three No-Trumps. Declarer played low from dummy on the heart lead. East won the queen and returned the seven. How should West defend? At rubber bridge West would probably take the ace and play back a third heart, hoping declarer had only three, and would have to lose a diamond trick to East. The fact that East could not have a diamond trick unless South had opened a 15-17 No-Trump on 14 (the jack of spades, the jack of hearts, the king of diamonds, and ace-king-queen of clubs) would not deflect his attack. But at pairs, West has to look more deeply into the situation. If South has made a standard opening bid, he is

KEENE on CHESS

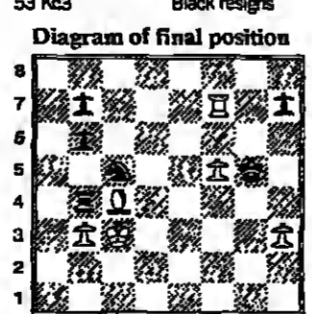
By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Polanica Zdroj

Today I conclude my coverage of the important tournament at Polanica Zdroj, in which FIDE world champion Anatoly Karpov suffered one of the worst tournament performances of his adult career, with a win by Vassily Ivanchuk against the grandmaster who was scheduled to play the world title match against Garry Kasparov later this year.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk Black: Alexei Shirov Polanica Zdroj 1998 English Opening

Chess move list showing moves for White and Black, including algebraic notation like Nf3, g5, Bc7, etc.



Times book The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at 6.99+p&p).

WORD-WATCHING section with a list of words and their definitions, such as WHIFFLER, COLASÇONE, and COCKAROUSE.

WINNING MOVE section featuring a chess puzzle and its solution, along with a short story or anecdote.

easyJet FLIGHTS OFFER advertisement featuring an image of an airplane, a table of flight routes and fares, and promotional text about special offers and booking details.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, including 'RUGBY UNION', 'Hosie se light a the end the tunn', and 'POOLS FORECAST'.

سكنا من الأهل



RUGBY UNION

Hosie sees light at the end of the tunnel

By DAVID HANDS, SUPER-CORRESPONDENT

THEIR statement may not have amounted to much, but the meeting yesterday of representatives from the Six Nations...

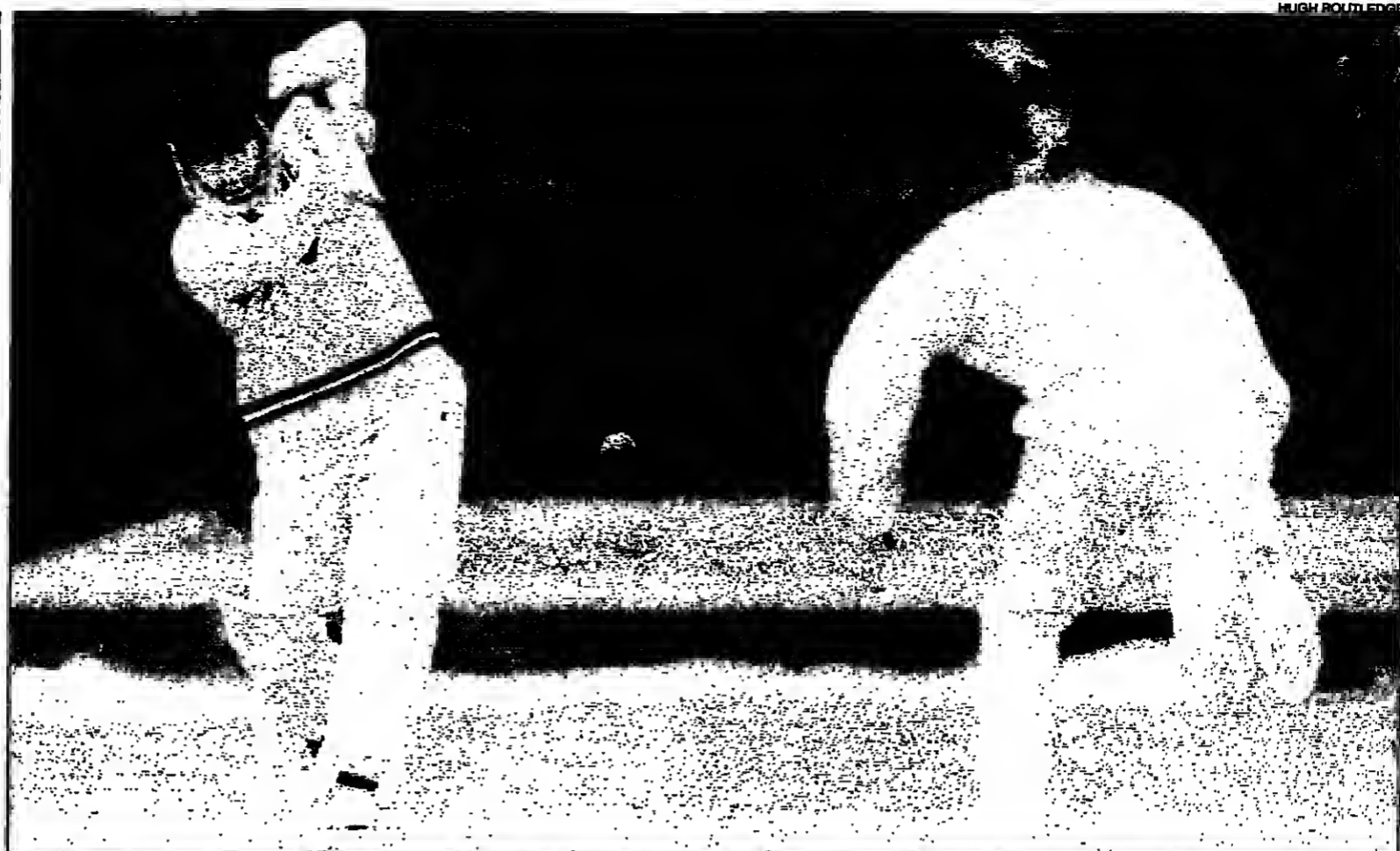
Commonwealth Games in Malaysia, but he is known to favour the formation of a working party on a British League...

The presidents of the French, Irish and Italian unions joined the management board chairmen of England, Wales and Scotland.

Pugh: favours working party

together with Vernon Pugh, the chairman of the International Rugby Board (IRB) and Stephen Baines, his chief executive...

Wales have further domestic problems brewing. They had already taken their differences to Heathrow with them...



Dean, the Staffordshire opener, drives the ball back past Diment on his way to a second-innings half-century at Dean Park yesterday

Staffordshire secure record

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

A RECORD tenth outright Minor Counties Championship title rewarded Staffordshire's command of an albeit drawn game...

he took four Dorset wickets for 14 in 47 balls and Pomer, the former Leicestershire...

Pomer also scored a half-century in each innings and was the man of the match. He returned four for six in 7.5 overs...

Derbyshire denied by Swanns in full song

By IVO TENNANT

NORTHAMPTON (Derbyshire won) Northamptonshire 2nd XI beat Derbyshire 2nd XI by five wickets

final four hours and accumulate at a reasonable tempo to regain the trophy after a five-year gap...

Derbyshire superimposed excellent fielding on their authoritative bowling and initially sturdy batting on an awkward pitch...

Northamptonshire second XI, or rather the Swann brothers, were too strong for their Derbyshire counterparts in the final of the Aon Trophy...

ROWING: HEAVYWEIGHT EIGHT REAP RICH REWARD FOR CHANGES IN SEATING POSITIONS

British lightweights extend world's best

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL IN COLOGNE

The Great Britain men's lightweight four and heavyweight eight put in eye-catching performances on the second day of preliminary heats...

the eight since they competed in Lucerne and it is now stroked by Louis Atrill from Imperial College...

Grobler, the Britain chief coach, is hoping that this young Olympic development crew can go on to improve on the fourth place gained in the 1997 championships...

Poland and Switzerland in the second 1,000 metres. It was not a good day for British women...

It was not a good day for British women. Both the heavy and lightweight quads, beset by recent injuries, were off the pace and the women's eight, the 1997 bronze medal-winner...

MOTOR RACING

Herbert to go from Sauber to Stewart

By KEVIN EASON

JOHNNY HERBERT rescued his career in Formula One last night by signing a two-year contract to drive for the Stewart-Ford team...

Herbert, who is one of the most popular drivers in Formula One, was in talks with Williams and Prost, but discovered that a seat was vacant for next season at the Stewart team...

For Herbert, the move means security. The 34-year-old was rapidly running out of options and seemed to be increasingly pressurised by Jean Alesi, his new team-mate at Sauber...

IN BRIEF

Jacklin has a swipe at James

■ GOLF: Tony Jacklin, the former British and US Open champion, has criticised the appointment of Mark James as the Europe Ryder Cup captain...

ROBBERY

■ RUGBY LEAGUE: Jamie Mathison, the Leeds Rhinos forward, will not face any disciplinary action for alleged racist remarks made to a St Helens player in the clubs' JJB Super League match at Headingley on Friday...

SHOOTING

■ RUGBY LEAGUE: Jamie Mathison, the Leeds Rhinos forward, will not face any disciplinary action for alleged racist remarks made to a St Helens player in the clubs' JJB Super League match at Headingley on Friday...

SPEDWAY

■ RUGBY LEAGUE: Jamie Mathison, the Leeds Rhinos forward, will not face any disciplinary action for alleged racist remarks made to a St Helens player in the clubs' JJB Super League match at Headingley on Friday...

TENNIS

■ SNOOKER: John Higgins, the world champion, and Stephen Hendry were both defeated by Chinese opponents in the opening round of matches in the Red Bull Super Challenge in ShenYang yesterday...

MOTOR RACING

■ MOTOR RACING: Dario Franchitti, of Scotland, gained his second consecutive IndyCar CART World Series victory on the streets of Vancouver...

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing football fixtures for today, including Premier League, Championship, and other leagues.

POOLS FORECAST

Table listing pool forecasts for various sports events, including snooker and pool.

CRICKET

Table listing cricket fixtures and results, including Aon Trophy and other matches.

FOR THE RECORD

Table listing records for various sports, including American Football, Baseball, and Cycling.

BASEBALL

Table listing baseball fixtures and results, including American League and National League.

CYCLING

Table listing cycling fixtures and results, including the Tour of Britain and other races.

GOLF

Table listing golf fixtures and results, including the PGA Tour and other events.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Table listing rugby league fixtures and results, including Super League and other competitions.

RUGBY UNION

Table listing rugby union fixtures and results, including Premiership and other leagues.

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Table listing rugby union fixtures and results, including Premiership and other leagues.

TENNIS: FORMER WORLD No 1 OUTPLAYED BY SWISS TEENAGER AT FLUSHING MEADOWS

Graf sent packing by wily Schnyder

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

STEFFI GRAF, once the Mercedes of women's tennis, has become prone to mechanical failure. One week, she will wallop all-comers, as she did in New Haven ten days ago...

instead on guile. She manoeuvres her opponents. What her serve lacks in pace, it makes good with deception. Graf could not cope with it at all. Her efforts to step up a gear served only to increase her tally of unforced errors...



Schnyder celebrates her fourth-round victory over Graf. Photograph: Ron Frehm

once his power game carried him as far as it could. Philippoussis has been quietly regrouping and his straight-sets defeat of Lucas Arnoldi late on Sunday night propelled him towards a fourth-round match with Tim Henman...

Alex Corretja and Carlos Moyá. The feeling is that the winner between Philippoussis and Henman can entertain prospects of reaching the final. Henman and Philippoussis have shared the honours in their two previous encounters...

he knows what to expect of the Briton. "He will be coming to the net a lot. I think he'll be expecting a lot of loose shots from me, but I'm going to play a consistent match, just nice, consistent tennis."

Rios grunts his way towards another exit

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

THERE will be dancing in the streets of Växjö, Magnus Larsson, the tall Swede with the unreliable haircut, is through to the fourth round of the US Open. The fact that he defeated Marcelo Rios, the No 2 seed and pretender to Pete Sampras's world No 1 spot, brought dancing in some quarters of Manhattan, too...

position by his fingertips for most of this year — he just could not be bothered. That is Rios for you. Later, he was giving little away. Was he disappointed to lose? "I think I'm not going to be happy if I didn't win," came the enigmatic reply...

standing at match-point down, he walked off court rather than let his opponent win. This is the same player who, it is said, began an interview with a female reporter from Australia with the observation: "God, you're ugly." When asked why he is so difficult to deal with, he just shrugs and claims: "The media say I am not nice, so I am not nice."

getting paid so much for doing so little, why change? Already this year, he has increased his bank balance by more than \$1.6 million and he has yet to win a grand-slam event. Still, he has racked up the results on the ATP tour his year, enough to push him past Sampras at the top of the rankings ladder. Once there, however, he has failed to win a match and he has been overtaken again by the American. Six weeks ago, he fired Larry Stefanki, his coach, who took him to the top of the heap, since when he has won only three matches in four tournaments. So is he worried? "It is not the end of this world, losing this match," he shrugged. "I take a little week off and start practising again."



AMERICAN FOOTBALL

San Francisco get off to winning start

By OLIVER HOLT

ON THE opening day of last season, the San Francisco 49ers were beaten at home by the unfancied Tampa Bay Buccaneers, losing Jerry Rice, their star receiver, with a serious knee injury in the process...

longest touchdown run in San Francisco's history. Elsewhere, the Dallas Cowboys gave Chan Gailey, their new coach a winning start with a comprehensive 38-10 victory over the Arizona Cardinals...

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In fact, now's the time to switch: because until 28th November 1998, you can chat to Australia/New Zealand for up to 2 hours on alternate Saturdays for no more than £7.50 for the call - and to the USA/Canada on the other Saturdays for no more than £5 per call.

Catch up with the foreign news. Switch to Cable & Wireless today.

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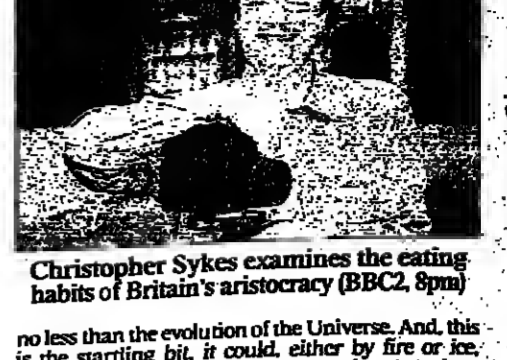
WORD-WATCHING section containing various word definitions and trivia questions related to the word 'watching'.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE: 1...Bg8 traps the white queen, as if 2.Bxg4 Nd3... 3.Kb1 Qxb2 checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Justice in the balance again

Home Ground: Murder in the Graveyard BBC2, 7.30pm. The latest documentary from the BBC regions to get a national showing is a story of what could be yet another in a seemingly endless line of miscarriages of justice.



Christopher Sykes examines the eating habits of Britain's aristocracy (BBC2, 8pm)

Upper Crust BBC2, 8.00pm. Yet another cookery series, you may groan, but this one is different in that it is set in country houses and features dishes traditionally enjoyed by the British aristocracy.

Equinox: big G Channel 4, 9.00pm. Gravity turns out to be far more interesting than those of us of a non-scientific bent could have imagined. It has done most to determine the form and function of our bodies.

Chippendale: A Secret History ITV, 10.40pm. Long before The Full Monty was a gleam in a filmmaker's eye, young men in California were taking off their clothes for the delight of screaming women.

RADIO CHOICE

Kennedy and the Violin Radio 2, 10.00pm. The Kennedy formerly known as Nigel presents this third programme in a series about his musical life.

Patient Progress: Natural Born Swillers Radio 4, 9.00pm

The recent excitement over the book by the England and Arsenal footballer, Tony Adams unfortunately overshadowed the book's real purpose, which was to show how Adams changed from social drinker to alcohol abuser in a descent which almost ended his career.

RADIO 1

6.30am Chris Moyles 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley. Includes: 12.00am News 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce. Includes: 5.45 Newsbeat 8.30 The Evening Session 8.30 Digital Update with Rachel Reynolds 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 12.00 The Breezeblock 2.00am Emma B 4.00 Chris Warren

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 Insight 7.30 Shadow Diving On The Path To Nirvana 8.00 News 8.15 Off The Shelf. North Sea Crossing 8.30 The Edge 9.00 News (648 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Musical of the Week 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Stories from the Atlantic 10.30 Looking at Issues about Making Money 10.35 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 On Screen 12.00 Newsweek 12.30am Shadow Diving On The Path To Nirvana 1.00 News (648 only) News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.15 British Today 1.30 News 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newsweek 2.05 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Musiclink FR Ltd 4.00 News 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 Westway 4.30 The Greenfield Collection (648 only) News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 British Today 6.00 News 6.15 Sports Roundup 6.30 Newsweek 7.30 One Planet 8.00 News 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Meganix 9.00 Newsweek 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 British Today 10.30 News 11.00 Newsweek 11.30 Insight 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Meganix 1.00 Newsweek 1.30 The Farming World 1.45 British Today 2.00 Newsweek 2.30 Discovery 3.00 Newsweek 3.30 Musiclink FR Ltd 4.00 News 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.30 The World Today 5.00 The World Today

RADIO 2

6.00am Alan Lester 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Carl Davis Classics 8.00 Nigel Ogden 9.00 George Gaskell Concerts. First of a new four-part profile of the composer 10.00 Kennedy and the Violin. See Choice 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Annie O'Brien

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Baker 9.00 Kelly Kelly. Includes the Hall of Fame and Record of the Week. 12.00am Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces pieces of music 2.00pm Concerto. Schumann (Cello Concerto in A minor) 3.00 Jamie Cullum. Includes Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. News updates with John Burningham 7.00 South Classics 8.00 News 8.30 Newsweek 9.00 Evening Concert. Beethoven Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat, Richard Strauss (Metamorphosen), Schubert (Symphony No 4 in C minor) 11.00am News at Night 11.30am News at Night 11.50am News at Night 12.00am Concerto (1) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN RADIO

6.30am Jonathan Ross 9.30 Bobby Hain 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Mark Forster 7.30 James Mayall 10.00 Paul Coyte 1.00am Craig Wallace 4.30 Jimmy Clark

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Presented by Patrick Trelawny. Includes: 6.30am News: Nuala in Mundo Paz (Sincera); Schubert (Rondo in A for violin and strings) 9.00 Masterworks, with Parry Gore. Includes: Glazunov (Violin Concerto No 2 in F); Schubert (Duo in A); Handel (Chandos Anthem No 2: In the Lord I Put My Trust); Muller (Sonata No 3 in A, American Edition); Glazunov (Chorale); 10.30 Artists of the Week: Jean-Pierre Thibaudet 11.00 Sound Stories: Siren Voices. Augusta Holmes 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Janáček 1.00pm News: 12.00am News: 2.00 BBC Proms 98. Last Wednesday's Prom (1) 4.00 Choral Voices: The Orthodox Lites. BBC Singers under Stephen Layton. Tchikovsky (Chorus: Home, Journey to St John Chrysostom); Rachmaninov (Eucharistic Prayer, Liturgy of St John Chrysostom); Stravinsky (Blessed Virgin); Taverner (Hymn to the Mother of God). Plus music from the 19th and 20th centuries. 4.45 Music Machine: In at the Deep End. Presented by Verity Sharp (1)

TALK RADIO

6.30am Bill Overton and Kirby Young 9.00 Scott Chisholm 11.00 Loraine Kelly 1.00pm Anna Radburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dooly 7.00 Nick Abbott 8.00 John Chiswick 1.00am Ian Collins and the Creatives (1) 3.00 Mark Griffiths

RADIO 4

6.00am Today, with Sue MacGregor and James Galloway. Includes: 6.30am News 7.45 Thought for the Day 9.00 On the Ropes. John Humphrys talks to Sir Charles Wolsey, whose attempt to open a 45-acre garden and leisure centre ended in financial disaster (6/6) 9.30 Tales from the Village. Exploring the traditions and beliefs that everyday life in Africa. José Kubzo attends a traditional funeral in Kenya (2/5) 9.45 (FM) The Owl's Watchtower. Tim Pigott-Smith reads J.A. Cuddon's 1956 tribute to the once-memorial city of Istanbul (2/5) 10.45 (LW) Daily Service 11.00 News 11.15am News: with Martha Kearney 11.00 News: Cuckoo Country. Peter McCarthy investigates the history of the Acadians - French settlers in Canada (2/5) (1) 11.30 Sixties Hour, with Heather Payne and guests. Charting Charles Dickens's comic tale, With Nicholas Farnell, Geoffrey Whitehead and Charlie Simpson (2/5) (1) 12.00 (FM) News: You and Yours, with Liz Barclay and John Wales 12.57pm Weather 12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 1.30 Points of Law. Huw Edwards cross-examines top lawyers Mark Stephens and Eileen Penbridge and their guests at the Old Hall of Lincoln's Inn in London 2.00 News: The Archers (1) 2.15 Afternoon Play: The Hydra. Ronald Frayne's 1965 comedy. With David Ross, Michael Gough, Highlands with Elio Langland, Crawford Logan and Edith Macarthur (2/4) 3.00 News: The Exchange. John Peel 0171-580 4444. Robert Lustig writes your views on today's topical issue 3.30 Blind Man on the Rampage. The BBC disability correspondent Peter White presents

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 908. WORLD SERVICE, MW 640, LW 156 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1058, 1099. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

A large vertical advertisement for Sam's TV and Video. It features the 'Sam' logo and lists various services and products, including TV sets, video equipment, and home appliances. The text is dense and arranged in columns.



RACING 45

Sea Wave changes course and misses St Leger

SPORT

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8 1998

TENNIS 50

Graf loses her way as new generation comes to the fore



FA unhappy with coach's delay
Hoddle called to account over contract

By Matt Dickinson

GLENN HODDLE avoided persistent questioning over his future as England coach on Saturday evening by abruptly bringing an end to the press conference...

his mixed response to the offer of a two-year extension that would take his employment to the World Cup in 2002. The England coach has been in no rush to put pen to paper...

which is chaired by Noel White and includes Doug Ellis, chairman of Aston Villa, David Dein, of Arsenal, David Sheepshanks, of Ipswich Town, and Ian Stott, the Oldham Athletic chairman.

Tottenham are given Graham warning

LEEDS United will demand more than £5 million in compensation if Tottenham Hotspur try to lure George Graham as manager...

With Graham, the former Arsenal manager, earning almost £1 million per year, Tottenham would have to pay substantially to lure him back to London...



Flintoff opens his shoulders to drive Hartley to the long-off boundary during his match-winning half-century at Old Trafford yesterday

Lancashire complete second leg

By Michael Henderson

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire (Apts) beat Hampshire by 16 runs

LANCASHIRE won another trophy yesterday, when they added the Axa League to the NatWest Trophy they collected at Lord's on Sunday.

Fittingly, Wasim Akram took a wicket in his last over in a one-day game on this ground. Today Lancashire are expected to announce that Muttiah Muralitharan will join them next year as their overseas player.

Wasim, together with Peter Martin, struggled the life out of the Hampshire batting after Smith and Kendall had shared a stand of 96 for the third wicket.

TABLE

Table with columns: Team, Runs, Wickets, Overs, etc. for various teams.

Bothamesque. It was a magnificent shot and though he went next over he had played his part, an exceptionally entertaining one.

Even Austin, who is probably the most reliable bowler of all in one-day cricket, conceded 12 runs from an over, the 31st of the innings - terribly expensive by his niggardly standards.

OLD TRAFFORD SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard table showing runs, wickets, and overs for Lancashire and Hampshire.

Hampshire began circumspectly. Stephenson drove Austin to mid-off to give Lancashire an early wicket, and White found a fielder in the same position 21 runs later...

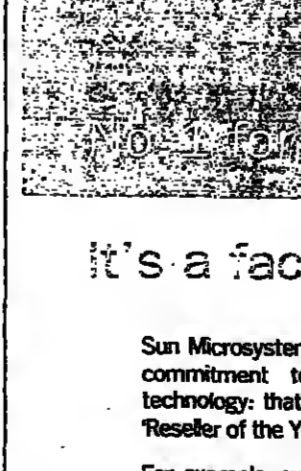
They did not look for big hits. Instead, they were content to push the score along at a steady five runs an over against bowling that was good but occasionally, most obviously in the case of Yates, lacked distinction.

At that stage Hampshire were rolling along very nicely and it was a relieved Chappie who found a bottom edge to take Smith's wicket.

McLean has earned a healthy reputation as a big hitter but the overs were running out when he belted Martin straight and high, only to see Chappie run 30 yards from long-off to hold a two-handed catch of rare brilliance.

Washin, with the penultimate ball of his last over, beat Keach all ends up, and the game was now over as a contest. Lancashire trooped from the field to accept the cup, and

can now prepare for an assault on the county championship, which has two matches to run. Lancashire play Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge before returning home to play Hampshire. Much, of course, rests on the final game at the Oval, between Surrey and Leicestershire, the present leaders. The weather, too, could take a hand.



Hoddle: retains backing



attention from the work of the players. It is the question of Hoddle's contract, though, which is most significant. The committee voted before the World Cup to offer Hoddle a two-year extension and the majority are still happy for him to sign it.

Concern is mounting, though, that Hoddle is already making plans to leave in 2000, and could be tempted away even earlier, and councillors are anxious not to be left in the lurch.

Minds have already turned to possible successors with Roy Hodgson the preferred target of some within Lancaster Gate. The Blackburn Rovers manager has vast experience of international football after his time with Internazionale and as coach of the Swiss national side.

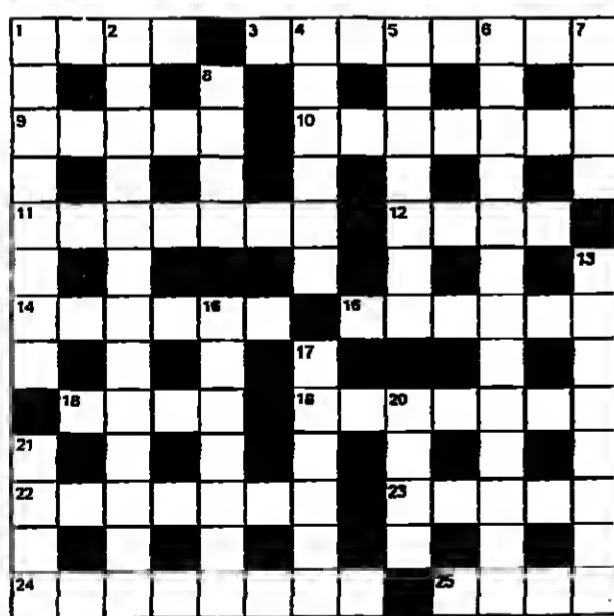
Knee operation for Croft

ROBERT CROFT, the England all-rounder, is to have knee surgery today in the hope he will then be fit for the start of this winter's Ashes tour.

Croft will miss the remaining matches of Glamorgan's season to correct the complaint, which was diagnosed as a tiny cartilage tear following a scan which led to him sitting out yesterday's AXA League game in Durham.

Glamorgan cricket secretary Mike Fatkin said: "Obviously this is disappointing coming on top of what has been an unbelievable summer from the point of view of player injuries."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1505

- ACROSS: 1 Company emblem (4), 3 Adolescent (8), 9 Newly made cold (wind) (5), 10 Allspice (7), 11 A city: a US president (7), 12 Brought into existence (4), 14 China clay (6), 16 A showy perennial (6), 18 Capital of Norway (4), 19 Pablo - C20 artist (7), 22 Succubus: a troll (7), 23 Give one's view (5), 24 Wind from Continent (8), 25 I've spilled it (4)

- DOWN: 1 Resembling the real person (8), 2 Global-warming air pollutant (10,3), 4 Lay out, use up (6), 5 Windhoek is capital (7), 6 President/supreme commander rank (13), 7 A bird to swindle (4), 8 Go away! (4), 13 Noble lady (8), 15 Post-Bronze period (4,3), 17 Attraction: request to umpire (6), 20 Cut (eg wood): cut of pork (4), 21 A need instrument (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1504: ACROSS: 1 Paris 4 Fiddler 8 Unsavory 9 Bap 10 Beer 11 Skittles 13 Matter 14 Inbred 17 Daiquiri 19 Roof 22 Lac 23 Adoniam 24 Risotto 25 Torus

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